

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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A Worldly Wise Man

By D. L. Moody. Died 1899

"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."—Luke 12:16-21.

(Mr. Moody, having been requested by some members of the Board of Trade to preach a sermon to the business men, took for his subject the life and death of the rich man mentioned by the Saviour in the twelfth chapter of Luke. In spite of a severe storm, with the thermometer four degrees below zero, an audience of about four thousand people assembled at the Tabernacle, in which the business men of Chicago were very largely represented.)

I want to call your attention for a few minutes this evening to the man we have been reading about.

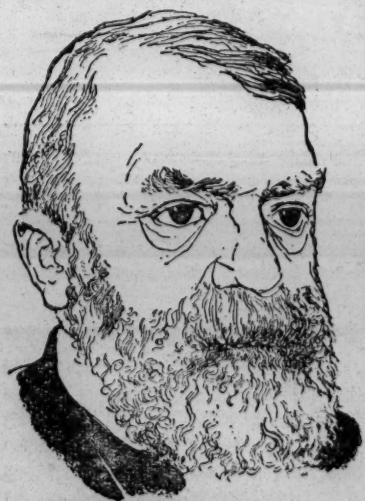
He Was a Clean-cut, Honorable Business Man

You will see that he was what we would call a successful business man; one whom worldly fathers and mothers might hold up to their sons as a model. He seems also to have been a moral man. I don't think he was a drunkard. There is nothing in the story that leads us to suppose he was dishonest. He didn't make his money by getting up "corners" on grain, or by letting out money at twenty or thirty per cent interest. He didn't operate in stocks, and ruin ever so many people on some "Black Friday," or make money by bets on the elections. He didn't go into bankruptcy, and compromise with his creditors by paying them fifty cents on the dollar; but, so far as we learn, he got his money honestly. There is nothing whatever in the Bible against his business character. I don't suppose he rented buildings for billiard halls, or saloons, or brothels, or took advantage of anybody in trade. He made his money by farming, and that is about the most honest way of doing it.

People called him a shrewd, long-headed man. I have no doubt his neighbors held him in high esteem, and perhaps they were thinking of sending him to Congress.

If you had spoken to this man about his soul he would have told you he was overwhelmed with business, and had no time to think of such things. Maybe he would have quoted Scripture to you and said, "Not slothful in business"; but probably he would have left out the rest of that verse, as people so often do, namely, "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

A man came out here once from the East, and one of our Chicago ministers asked him to preach in his pulpit: which he did, from this



D. L. Moody

text, "Not slothful in business," but he went no further. After he had got through with his sermon, the minister said to him, "Chicago doesn't need any of that kind of preaching; we have all got that doctrine deep down in our souls: what we want is to be taught how

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God Hath Chosen the WEAK



By Evangelist John R. Rice

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth let him glory in the Lord."—I Cor. 1:26-31.

God hath chosen the foolish things, not the wise. God hath chosen the weak things to confound the mighty. God hath chosen the base things, the things that are despised, the things which are not, to bring to nought the things that are! Why should God,

who has the choice, select the ignorant instead of the intelligent, select the weak instead of the strong, select the bad instead of the good, select unworthy instead of worthy? Strange, strange Scripture!

Paul by divine inspiration says in effect, 'You can see that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called.' Why are not the kings and presidents usually good Christians? Why are not the millionaires, the university presidents, the Nobel prize winners Christians? Why are Christians more often poor, and unbelievers and wicked people more often rich?

God has chosen it that way! Once as I thought on my poor congregation of largely working-class people in a new church in Dallas, Texas, with only one college graduate in the entire congregation besides me and my wife, I felt sorry for God. God seemed to have been left with the rag

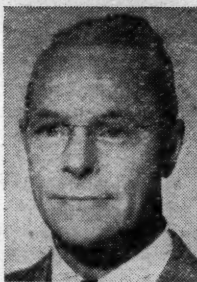
and tag ends of the people. God seemed to have been given the leftovers, the inefficient, the unworthy. I wished that God could have had a fair chance and have more of the educated, the wise, the rich, the influential! How much better, I thought, would it be for the spread of Christianity, if the rich, the wise, the influential were Christians too! Then I got a great shock. The Holy Spirit seemed to speak to me in sharpest reproof. God has chosen it that way! God wants it that way!

God would rather use a poor man than a rich man. He had rather hear the prayer of a widow than of a woman with a prosperous husband. The Lord would rather look after an orphan than a child with parents and a good home. He had rather use an apostle like Paul, buffeted continually with a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to tempt

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Good News for Catholics and Protestants

The PROTESTANT Pope Priesthood and Purgatory



Three articles to clear the mind and bless the honest hearts from the Bible

By Evangelist John Linton

328 Belle Isle View, Windsor, Ont., Can.

ARTICLE I THE PROTESTANT POPE

I have glorious good news from God Himself for any Roman Catholic friend who will read this message. It is this: If you love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth, and if your trust for salvation is in nothing else than His atoning death for your sins, then on the authority of God's holy Word you can know that the moment you close your eyes in death, you will open them in Heaven in the presence of Christ your Saviour. And since even devout Roman Catholics live and die in fear of purgatory of suffering and anguish after death, and know nothing of the assurance of salvation of which the Bible speaks, then surely it should be good news for such to learn that after death there is no such place of waiting, of suffering, of purging. The Word of God clearly teaches that every true believer at the moment of death goes straight to Heaven fully justified by his personal faith in the atoning blood of Christ.

Since a man's salvation is the most important question he could ever consider, it follows that if God is a just God, He will have given us one authoritative voice, one final authoritative instruction telling us how to be saved. Are there various ways to Heaven or only one? If one way,

what is it? What is the one supreme court of appeal in all matters spiritual?

Our Lord has answered this question in a passage that should be read, memorized, and pondered by every man interested in his soul's salvation. It is this: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

What could be plainer? The one authoritative judge in matters of the soul is the holy Word of God. The Bible alone is to be our judge. Not what our particular church teaches will be our judge. That is the clear meaning of Christ's words. Whether our church be Protestant, Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, or anything else will not decide our salvation in that coming day. Jesus Christ declares the Bible will be our sole judge.

But who is to tell us what the Bible means? Which church has the true meaning? And right here is the appeal I make to any Catholic who will read this message—since every individual is responsible before God for his own salvation, he is under obligation to read

(Continued on page 11)

Help 50 Million This Christmas!

The "Voice of Revival" Broadcast Is Blessing Millions, Souls Are Being Saved, Young Christians Taught, Homes Made Right, Christ Is Honored
HELP US CLOSE 1959 ALL PAID UP!

By the Editor

The year 1959 is drawing to a close, the first full year of "Voice of Revival" broadcast, which started the first Sunday in January 1959. It has been a wonderful year of blessing for the new broadcast. God is raising up friends. Millions of people have been blessed by the Rice sisters duets, by the Bill Harvey solos, by the "Voice of Revival" choir, and by the old-fashioned evangelistic preaching.

This half hour could be heard by more than half of the people of the United States. Twenty-one million could hear the broadcast Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p. m. on WABC, 770 KC on the dial, the 50,000-watt station in New York City.

On WLS, the Prairie Farmer Station, 890 KC on your dial, the "Voice of Revival" broadcast can be heard at 11:00 p. m. Central Standard Time nearly everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains. We have heard from friends who

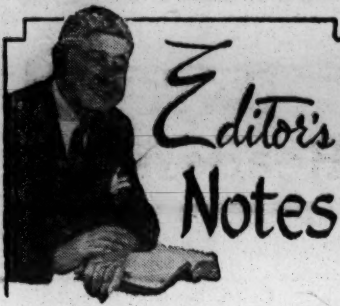
heard it in San Antonio, Texas; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; New Brunswick in Canada. Announcer Bud Lyles and I heard it very clearly the other night in Durham, North Carolina.

Nearly all of Texas and much of Oklahoma can hear our broadcast on WFAA at Dallas at 7:30 a. m. each Sunday (820 KC on the dial).

Through the year we estimate that probably more than fifty million different people will have listened in to the gospel broadcast at least once.

We prayerfully hope that through the next year, a constantly-enlarging audience of radio listeners for the "Voice of Revival" broadcast will include more than fifty million people, some of whom will hear it regularly, and many others who will listen in by chance, perhaps, at first. Oh, for the power of God

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Thanksgiving away from home! How many times in thirty-seven years of evangelism have I been away from home on Thanksgiving Day, or at Easter, or on my wedding anniversary, or on the birthday of one of the family! One daughter who anticipated her scheduled arrival by two weeks came when I was in a revival campaign in another state. Although I have been at home most Christmases, one Christmas I could not arrive until Christmas day evening.

So, this Thanksgiving, I am scheduled to be with Tennessee Temple Schools and Dr. Lee Roberson in the Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga. But I will be thankful. Oh, how much we have for which we should praise God, how much to make us happy and glad! Surely no Christian with sins forgiven, and with a consciousness of nothing between him and God, has any right to be sad.

And I trust Thanksgiving was a blessed time of feasting and praise and happy family fellowship for readers of THE SWORD.

A Wonderful Sword Conference at Durham, N. C.

November 1-6 some twenty churches in and near Durham, North Carolina, co-operated in a major conference on revival and soul winning, directed by the editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, sponsored by the Evangelical Ministerial Association. On the opening Sunday I preached in the Bible Presbyterian Church, the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, and in the broadcast evening service of the Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church. On week days the daytime services were held in Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church and the evening services in Carr Junior High School Auditorium seating one thousand. Seven denominations were represented in the sponsorship. In one daytime service forty-two preachers were present.

A carload of six ministerial students from Columbia Bible College, Columbia, South Carolina, drove 220 miles to be in the services Sunday. A luncheon was furnished each weekday for full-time Christian workers, and there was a blessed hour of fellowship, testimony, and praise each day.

Speakers included Rev. Jack Hyles, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana; Evangelist Walt Handford, vice-

president of THE SWORD OF THE LORD Foundation, and Evangelist John R. Rice, Bud Lyles, announcer of the "Voice of Revival" broadcast, was song leader and soloist.

There was a mighty moving of God's Spirit on the hearts of Christians. Two afternoons organized, systematic and supervised soul-winning effort was made from house to house and many were won to Christ. Two women were won under hair dryers in a beauty shop! In our hotel lobby a man fell on his knees and asked God for mercy and forgiveness and was saved. A number were saved in the homes. Mrs. Rice and Walt Handford won a young woman on the city bus. No one else was on the bus, and a change of drivers, and a freight train switching at a crossing held up the bus long enough for her to find Christ and claim Him gladly. Another woman we had prayed for by name unexpectedly came upon some pastors in the bus station, and within ten minutes before she was to catch an out-of-town bus, she was won to Christ. A drunkard was won one night. The next day he was sober, looking for a job. Evangelist Walt Handford won a stewardess on the airplane coming home.

Many pastors said again and again that their ministry was wholly transformed. One pastor, after being unable to sleep till four-thirty in the morning went to a deacon in the church with whom he had had a difference, begged the deacon's forgiveness. The deacon also apologized and happy fellowship was restored. Another pastor called me aside to pay for a book he had received through the Sword Book Club years ago and said, "I am so glad to have that off my conscience!"

We believe that many a revival will result among the churches represented by those in the services. And we must say that the fine work of Pastor Paul Raker of Faith Baptist Tabernacle, Winston-Salem, in setting up the meeting, enlisting pastors, and helping with expenses was of tremendous importance.

We suggest that pastors and others who wish a SWORD OF THE LORD Conference on Revival and Soul Winning see if they can unite with other Bible-believing pastors and churches to make as large a conference as possible. Unfortunately, we must turn down about four out of five invitations for lack of time. Help us reach as many as possible, by co-operating with other churches in such conferences, will you, dear pastors?

Let's Put THE SWORD OF THE LORD in Every Home in Your Church

Many pastors have found a tremendous upsurge and spiritual emphasis and revival power in their churches when THE SWORD OF THE LORD is put into the home

I SHOULD BE AFRAID TO GO FORWARD IF I DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE LAY AT THE FOUNDATION OF ALL OUR THOUGHT THIS UNIMPEACHABLE WORD OF GOD. IF WE CANNOT DERIVE OUR STRENGTH THENCE, THERE IS NO SOURCE FROM WHICH WE CAN DERIVE IT. HAVING NOW ABOVE FOURTEEN YEARS TRIED THIS WAY, I CAN MOST FULLY, IN THE FEAR OF GOD, COMMEND IT.

—SPOKEN BY WOODROW WILSON

of every resident family of the church. It would be impossible for most of the members of the church to read the sermons, Bible studies, and the "Incidents and Illustrations" or work the Bible crossword puzzle, or read the "Kids Korner" to the little ones, without growing in grace and without better understanding the Bible and soul winning, Christian giving, and the separated, Spirit-filled Christian life.

It has already been proven in multiplied thousands of cases that it pays to put the best Christian literature in the hands of church members. In many denominations the denominational paper is put in the church budget and sent to every resident family in the church. Sunday Schools provide regular story papers for children and young people, provide Sunday School quarterlies and magazines.

But men push the denominational paper to keep in good favor with denominational leadership and to raise money for denominational causes. Why not simply see that our people are fed on the Word of God, that they are inspired to win souls, that they have the best teaching and preaching of this generation in their homes? How wise it would be if some spiritually minded people in every church would see to it that all the resident families in the church receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

It may be done by one individual, by a group that agrees to pay the expenses, or it may be done through the church budget.

Here Is Our Church Membership Offer

If any church wishes to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to all the resident families of the church, or if some group would like to send THE SWORD that way, we will make the rock-bottom price of \$2.00 a year. And the church may pay if it likes by the quarter, 50c per subscription. For twenty families it would be only \$10 a quarter, \$40 a year, for Christian reading for perhaps sixty or a hundred members!

Will you see the pastor or some of the good men in your church and see if THE SWORD OF THE LORD cannot be sent to every resident family in your church? The increase in Christian giving to the church budget will far more than pay for the expense of the subscriptions, we feel sure.

Some are asking if they could send get-acquainted subscriptions to new readers in large numbers at the rate of \$1.00 for six months still? Yes, you may. One pastor asked if he could send THE SWORD to every pastor of his denomination in his state at this rate. That is a wonderful example, and if one hundred people will set out to send a hundred get-acquainted subscriptions soon you may still use this special plan of \$1.00 for six months. But please hurry.

We Praise God on Our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary: Have You Helped Us Celebrate?

The four months September through December are being used to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, which was first issued September 28, 1934. Our celebration includes an effort to raise \$25,000 for "Investment Evangelism" to pay off long-term notes and provide working capital for THE SWORD. It includes an effort to pay off our radio bills and come out in the clear on the "Voice of Revival" broadcast by January 1. And we are especially anxious to greatly increase the subscription list of THE SWORD. Have you had a worthy part in the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration? Will you ask God to show you what He would have you to do?

INCIDENTS

and Illustrations

By
Evangelist Robert L. Sumner
Contributing Editor

Woodshed Philosophy: Proven Results!

The Fort Wayne (Indiana) News-Sentinel recently featured an editorial entitled, "Woodshed Philosophy" Always Did Work." Since Deweyism in our day has ridiculed whipping children to so great an extent that supposedly only old-fashioned preachers with "warped minds" still advocate such extreme measures of discipline, I thought it might be good to quote the item here and let my readers receive the benefit of this journalistic thought. Said the editorial:

"Columnist George Sokolsky effectively debunked one of the phases of the 'new thought in juvenile discipline and education.' He pertinently comments on the adverse 'thinking' of an educator, J. P. Stafford, on the 'physical deterrent' in invoking discipline on juveniles. Said Sokolsky:

"I read a piece by J. P. Stafford, who is an educator. He objects to what he calls the 'woodshed philosophy of pioneer days,' that is, the paddling of a young fellow across the buttocks until he recognizes at an early age that crime does not pay. Stafford says concerning juvenile delinquents:

"'What we need is not to recall all the timeworn arguments, but to get to a co-operative, imaginative approach based on research, investigation, and the intelligent leadership of social and religious groups and government agencies.'"

"Heaven knows that we have plenty of government agencies et cetera now charged with solving the problem of juvenile delinquency. As Mr. Sokolsky so truly rationalizes, 'we have research, investigation, intelligent leadership, statistics, publications, sociologists and social workers, but juvenile crime is on the increase.'"

"Since all of this fails to solve the vexing problem of juvenile delinquency, why not try a practical application of 'woodshed philosophy' once again. We have vivid personal recollection that it always worked years ago—also that it was not necessary to invoke it very often. The memory of a little of it indeed went a long way toward curbing juvenile malfeasance."

It will work again, if applied!

Wisconsin had the ignoble position of leading every state in the Union last year in per capita beer consumption, averaging 24.5 gallons per person. Nevada was second with 22.2 gallons per person, and Michigan third with 19.9 gallons per capita consumption.

Orchids to British Judge!

American papers have been filled of late with case after case of "wife-swapping," an immoral procedure whereby two families exchange partners. The sordid affairs are treated rather lightly in the press, often as a matter of humor, and simple explanations

about how the couples are dividing up the children, what comments both parties make, etc., are the main highlights in the stories. But this column wants to give its verbal bouquets to Judge Constantine Gallop of Birmingham, England, for throwing a divorce petition by John Hurst out of his court in a case the judge called "disgusting." It involved wife-swapping between Hurst and another wealthy Britisher, Gordon Lloyd.

In some powerful verbal blasts, Judge Gallop described Mrs. Lloyd as an "oversexed and miserable" woman with "an extremely vulgar manner," Lloyd as a "lecher," and Hurst as a "criminal fool." He excused Mrs. Hurst with the explanation that her mentality freed her from responsibility, observing that she was "regarded by psychiatrists as in an appreciable state of derangement" at the time of the wife-swapping. The men had exchanged wives on at least three occasions for purposes of adultery.

Incidentally, worthy of careful note is the admission that the first case of "wife exchanging" between the couples took place after a dance!

"There are three ways to look: If you want to be wretched, look within; if you wish to be distracted, look around; but if you want to have peace, look up!"

Rudy's Big Bargain

An attorney by the name of Rudolph Vasalle purchased a painting for \$170 some time ago. Later it was discovered that the canvas held the work of the master, Raphael, and now the same picture is evaluated at \$300,000. Not everyone can expect to make a profit totaling almost 1,765 times his original investment and you may be sure even Mr. Vasalle does not do so every day!

However, anyone and everyone can take advantage of a bargain so much greater in scope and nature that the Vasalle-Raphael deal fades into insignificance. I refer, of course, to the act whereby a sinner becomes a saint, his birthright as a child of Satan is exchanged for that of a son of God, ownership of a pit in Hell is voided and a clear title to a mansion in Glory received, rags of corruption are swapped for a robe of perfect righteousness, and the useless, barren, self-centered, joyless, peaceless life is terminated in favor of a blessed, sweet, joy-filled life as a co-laborer with God in the ministry of reconciliation. All of this comes free to the sinner; it takes no original investment other than willingness to receive it.

Yet, mystery of mysteries, more refuse the offer than accept it! No explanation can be given other than the insanity of sin. But though the blinded sinner turns his back on God's wonderful offer, the gracious Redeemer's pleading voice continues to cry, "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" (Ezek. 33:11).

Yes, sinner, why?

Evangelist Sumner can be seen and heard: Thru November 27: First Baptist Church, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania December 1-13: Boomer Baptist Church, Boomer, West Virginia

"... It left me with a revival burning in my heart"

By Viola Walden

Attending Evangelist Robert L. Sumner's meeting in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was a 22-year old man, father of two. From the book table he bought *Man Sent From God*, the biography of Dr. Rice, written by Mr. Sumner. Now this young man writes to tell what a blessing it has been to him:

"... This book has left me with a revival burning in my heart and has encouraged me to take a bolder stand for our Lord and Saviour...."

"Already my mother-in-law and our pastor have asked to read the book, and I shall try to see that every adult in our church has a chance to read it...."

Thank you, Rolland B. Gipson,

for this encouraging word. Many others are being greatly helped and encouraged by this biography. We trust you, too, will get a copy. Price, \$3.50, plus 15c for postage, from Sword of the Lord, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

John Watson, enlarging on the thought that the Bible is so simple that a way-faring man or a fool need not err therein, said: "It is shallow enough so that the most timid swimmer may enjoy its waters without fear, and yet deep enough for the most expert swimmer to enjoy it without touching the bottom."



AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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Kids CORNER

By Aunt Mary

Dear Nieces and Nephews,

I hope you celebrated Thanksgiving Day in a way that pleased the Lord Jesus. Did you make a point of thanking Him especially for a good dinner? If your church had a special Thanksgiving service, did you join with others in praising God?

And I wonder how many learned the memory assignment for last week? I like to say Psalm 103 over to myself when I am happy and feel especially like praising the Lord. Bible words sometimes express what I feel better than my own words can. That is one of the happy things about memorizing God's word.

For you boys and girls who have not yet joined the "Sword-Bearers Club" and received your membership card and shining gold sword we are printing another membership application. Save your money, and enclose a quarter to help pay for the gold pin.

Love,
Aunt Mary

Samuel, "Given of the Lord," Loaned to God for Life!

Long ago in the land of Israel there lived a woman named Hannah. Every year her husband Elkanah took his family up to Shiloh to worship the Lord. And to each one in the family he gave a "portion," or gift. But to Hannah he always gave a special portion, because he loved her so much. But one year when they went to Shiloh to worship, Hannah was so sad because she had no children that she sat and wept. She wouldn't eat when the others ate, and she simply cried. Elkanah, her husband, felt sad too. He said, "Hannah, why do you weep? Am I not better to you than ten sons? You know I love you!"

So Hannah got up after they ate in Shiloh. In the temple, Hannah prayed to the Lord in her great sadness. She promised, "O Lord, if you will remember me and give me a boy baby, I will give him back to you to serve you all the days of his life!"

While she was praying, Eli the high priest who was sitting nearby, noticed that her mouth was moving but that no words came out. And strangely, he thought she must be drunk. Eli said, "How long will you stay drunk? Put away the wine you have been drinking!"

Hannah answered, "No, Eli, my lord, I am a very sad woman. I haven't drunk any wine. I have been pouring out my spirit to the Lord. Don't count me a wicked woman, because out of my great grief I have been praying to the Lord."

Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the Lord God give you what you asked of Him."

Hannah said, "Let thine hand-

leave him to serve the Lord all the days of his life!"

And Elkanah went to the temple without his beloved Hannah to offer sacrifices to the Lord.

Think of the joy Hannah must have felt in caring for the little boy God had given her in answer to her prayer! I think she did not even feel sad at the thought of taking him to God's house while he was still small for joy at having



a baby boy. Surely she told him very early that he belonged to God, was a special gift of God and would serve Him all his life.

When Samuel was a little older, perhaps three or four, Hannah, with Elkanah, took the little Samuel to the temple, with three bullocks, or steers, some flour, and other gifts for the Lord. They killed one of the bullocks, and brought the little boy Samuel to Eli.

And Hannah said, "Eli, do you remember the sad woman who stood here praying silently to the Lord? You thought I was drunk! I was asking the Lord for a baby boy, and God heard my request. Here is the child He gave me, and I have brought him to the Lord. As long as he lives, I will lend him to the Lord."

Then we read one of the beautiful songs of praise in the Bible. Hannah, rejoicing in the Lord, said, "There is none holy as the Lord; for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. The woman with no children has seven, as He wishes."

Her praise song runs for ten verses, then we learn that Elkanah and apparently Hannah also left to go home, and Samuel stayed to minister in the temple.

Tenderly, we read, his mother every year made him a little coat and brought it to him, when she came once a year to worship with her husband.

And another wonderful thing happened. On one of these visits, Eli blessed them and said, "May the Lord give you other children for this one who is lent to the Lord."

And in later years, the couple

APPLICATION FOR SWORD-BEARERS CLUB

Please enroll me as a member of the Sword-Bearers Club. I will aim to be a "good soldier of Jesus Christ" in everything I do. I promise, by God's help, to try to read at least one chapter in the Bible each day. I will set out to follow what the Bible teaches me. I will also take time each day to pray, asking forgiveness for my sins and help for the day.

I enclose 25c for my gold sword membership pin.

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(Please print clearly)

maid find grace in thy sight. [Thank you.]

The next morning Elkanah and his family got up early, worshipped the Lord, and then went back to their home.

Now the Bible account includes a sweet expression, "And the Lord remembered her." After a time Hannah had a little baby boy whom she named Samuel which means "asked of the Lord." But that very next year, when Elkanah took the rest of his family up to the temple, Hannah said, "I will not go up to the temple with you until the child is weaned. Then I will bring him there and

had five other children, three sons and two daughters. Wasn't God good to them because of their willingness to give their only child to Him? God wanted them to have their hearts' desire!

"God remembered Hannah!"

Now get your Bible and read I Samuel, chapters 1 and 2, for the story of Hannah, Elkanah, and the baby Samuel!

Old members please read the pledge you signed again. It will remind you to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ. New members please read carefully before you sign so that you will keep your promises.

Biography of Dr. Rice Being Widely Read and Acclaimed

By Viola Walden

From time to time we have printed reviews in THE SWORD on *Man Sent From God*, the biography of our beloved editor, Dr. Rice, written by Evangelist Robert L. Sumner. But some more recent reviews have come, showing how God is using the book in the lives of young preachers particularly.

Rev. Leon Foote of Mt. Union, Pennsylvania, a Bob Jones University graduate, and now pastor, says:

"I have recently read *MAN SENT FROM GOD*, and I cannot think of any book that has thrilled me and influenced my ministry more, as well as enforced my backbone. After each chapter I had to get on my knees and thank God for His power, and for a man who is willing to be a mirror and reflect God's power in his life, and by his life."

Rev. Garland Cofield, pastor of Rose Park Baptist Church in Holland, Michigan, wrote:

"Your biography, *MAN SENT FROM GOD*, was a great encouragement in my life. Part of the time I was crying and part of the time I had to lay it aside just to rejoice in my heart. Once again let me say what an inspiration you are to so many of us young pastors."

The Faith and Free Press editor reviewed it as follows:

"The reading of this book by a genuine Christian is a great spiritual experience which he will not soon forget.

This reviewer can testify that of all the biographies that he has read, my impression now is that none were so uplifting and inspiring as this one. Rev. Sumner has done a superb job in presenting the life story of one of America's greatest evangelists and editors and authors . . . This book will make a better Christian out of every Christian who reads it, and may be the means of leading many lost people to the Lord."

We have been particularly impressed at the imprint the book is making on the lives of young ministers and ministerial students.

The author of the book, Evangelist Robert L. Sumner, says in his Preface that his main concern in this biography has been "to help young preachers and ministerial students—plus other young Christians who have the unfortunate experience of living in this day of compromise—by placing in their hands a challenging example of a man who would not yield." And by their own testimony, the book is doing just that.

We suggest this biography as a Christmas gift to a minister or ministerial student. Who knows but what the reading of it will transform his whole ministry. It is a large book, well done by Eerdmans Publishing House, 262 pages, sells for \$3.50. You may order your gift copy from *Sword of the Lord*, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois. Please enclose 15c for postage and handling.

Book Reviews

PATTERNS FOR PREACHING by Harry C. Mark (Zondervan Publishing House; 183 pp.; \$2.95).

The author, who is instructor in homiletics at the Lancaster School of the Bible and School of Theology, defines the purpose of his book as being a practical approach to producing a Bible-centered and varied ministry. There are three main divisions in the text dealing with the three types of preaching: subject patterns, textual patterns and expository patterns.

With each type of pattern in each division the author first defines and describes the style, then illustrates it in simple outlines, and then evaluates that pattern by giving instructions and warnings as to the use of that particular method.

All of the Lord's servants could profit from this book, but those just starting their ministries will find it especially helpful.

HEBREWS by M. R. DeHaan (Zondervan Publishing House; 212 pp.; \$2.50).

The beloved physician of the air waves, heard weekly over the combined Mutual and ABC Networks, plus many independent stations at home and abroad, has set forth "twenty-six simple studies in God's plan for victorious living" based on the book of the Hebrews. It is not an exhaustive study or even a verse-by-verse exposition, but a series of messages on some of the key portions.

Dr. DeHaan writes on the assumption that "the background of Hebrews is the Judgment Seat of Christ." Many good and worthwhile things are brought to light in this book, but we cannot agree with him in his two main expositions: his interpretation of the disputed portions in Hebrews 6 and Hebrews 10. Furthermore, Dr. DeHaan has not, in this reviewer's estimation, been entirely fair in his evaluation of the interpretation he admits "is followed by almost all fundamental and Calvinistic students." For example, who among us would believe or say that the subjects in these passages "were partly saved" (p.

17) or "half saved," as he charges in the title of his opening chapter? Neither is it fair to say we teach that Hebrews 6 refers to every false professor, unconverted church member, and religious hypocrite, as he seems to intimate (p. 98). Of the two disputed passages, his arguments are the most convincing relative to chapter 6; they seem especially weak in chapter 10.

While disagreeing with the author we do so in love, as he hoped we would (p. 95), and feel his arguments deserve a careful evaluation in the light of scriptural context and cross reference passages. The last one-third of the book is very valuable and helpful.

ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF BIBLE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS by A. Van Deursen (Zondervan Publishing House; 142 pp.; \$2.50).

Finger tip facts which will make to the western mind what is ordinary to the inhabitant of Bible lands. An amazing amount of material in compact form. The bibliography includes the works of over seventy scholars. Four indices enhance its value to the busy student: a general index, an

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And to you, let me say that THE SWORD OF THE LORD is an interdenominational Christian magazine coming each week. It publishes full-length sermons by the greatest preachers of leading denominations, and the greatest preachers of the past. We believe that the Bible is the very Word of God. We believe in salvation by faith in the atoning blood of Christ. We believe that Christ is God's own Son who came to earth to live a perfect life and die a substitutionary death, paying for our sins, and that He ascended to Heaven. We believe that soul winning is the main duty of every Christian and of every Christian organization. We believe in the premillennial coming of Christ. We believe in Heaven for born-again children of God and Hell for Christ-rejecting sinners. You see, we are old-fashioned, orthodox Christians. We follow the traditions and teachings of the great men of God like Moody, Torrey, Spurgeon. If you believe in the old-time Christian religion, the gospel of salvation by the blood, the gospel of the new birth by faith in Christ, then you will like THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

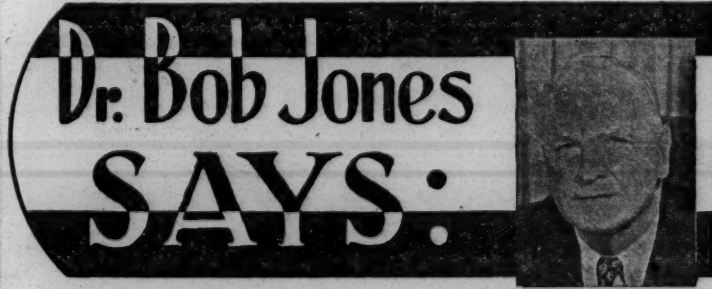
index of names of people and gods, and index of proper names and a textual index. One of the unusual features of this handy, compact volume is that every item dealt with is illustrated, by number, on a facing page.

GOD'S WISDOM IN THE PLAN OF SALVATION by James B. Walker (The Higley Press; 205 pp.; \$2.50).

Formerly published under the title, "The Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation," the present publishers call it "one of the most influential religious books ever published in America."

This wisdom, or philosophy, is shown by the author to be portrayed in man's religious nature, spiritual bondage, divine miracles,

(Continued on page 6)



You can borrow brains, but you cannot borrow character. That is what we teach the students in Bob Jones University. The academic standards of the institution which God led me to found thirty-two years ago are as high as those of any other educational institution in America; but this institution puts strong emphasis on character. We are suffering in America from a bankruptcy of Christian character. Even many Bible-believing Christians will go along with almost any movement that comes along if it looks good. We tell our students that we are not to judge what we see by what we see but that we are to judge what we see by what God's Word

says about what we see.

If you are interested in the old-time religion and a real, Bible-believing, Christian, educational institution, you can help us here at Bob Jones University. First, you can pray for us daily. We do earnestly covet your prayers. Second, you can turn the right kind of young people to Bob Jones University so we can train them for real Christian leadership. Third, you can invest some of God's money in the institution. Won't you let us hear from you? Please do. Thank you, and God bless you.

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Brotherly Love Covers the Multitude of Sins

"And Above All Things Have Fervent Charity Among Yourselves: For Charity Shall Cover the Multitude of Sins."
—I Pet. 4:8.

By Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor

How important is brotherly love? It is so important that the command is "ABOVE ALL THINGS have fervent charity among yourselves." As Henry Drummond says, love is the greatest thing in the world. Christians should love one another, should put love above all other duties to brethren, for brotherly love, charity, "shall cover the multitude of sins."

Honest Love and Faithfulness Are Not Opposed

We are commanded, "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Rom. 12:9). Brotherly love, the love that covers a multitude of sins is to be honest love. The Bible does not teach that I should call the unconverted my brother or call an enemy of Christ and of the Bible a Christian. I should love God's born-again children as brothers in Christ. I should love unconverted, unbelieving men with pity and prayer and scriptural warning, and sometimes with holy indignation.

If I love God I must "abhor that which is evil." One who loves corn hates weeds. One who is for the Lord Jesus is against Satan. The parent who loves his son "chasteneth him betimes" (Prov. 13:24). The preacher who loves sinners warns them of sin, Hell, and judgment, but does not call them brother. One who loves the Word of God must hate infidelity. One who obeys God's command must "earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3). Paul did not love Peter less when he openly rebuked him for his compromise as told in Galatians 2.

Some are hypocrites about love and think love for men excuses disobedience to God. That is wrong. It is never necessary, it is never needful to disobey God to love men. It is never necessary to play down the Bible standards and truth to play up Christian fellowship. It is never necessary to endorse sin when we forgive it. And love for God means that we must sometimes rebuke sin and not be partakers of it, but love the sinner or the sinning brother.

No, love does not oppose faithfulness. Love does not play down truth and righteousness. On the other hand faithfulness and truth and righteousness do not excuse us from lack of brotherly love. We are still commanded, "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins" (I Pet. 4:8). Love without truth and obedience is sin. But so is truth sinful without love. Oh God give us the brotherly love that covers the multitude of sins.

Our Love Covers Sins of Others From Our Sight

First of all, charity covers our brothers' sins. My brother is certain to have sins. He is human and weak even as I. But if I love him as I ought, those sins will be covered and to my eyes will not be apparent. An old proverb says, "Love is blind." Let us thank God that it is so. If love were not blind, most people would never be loved. It is strange how attractive the sorriest, ugliest man grows after you learn to love him. Love covers physical defects. Love covers mental shortcomings. So love covers the multitude of sins also.

Mother-love is a strange, sweet, unexplainable thing. In some unaccountable way, a mother's love finds an excuse for every sin her boy commits. A mother comes to me after her boy is in jail and she says, "My boy is not a bad boy, Brother Rice, he just got into bad company. He never did anything like this before. I know the other boys must have led him into it!" And then she assures me with a faith that nobody else could have in that boy that "I am certain he would never do wrong any more. He has learned his lesson." Every pardon board, every governor who deals out executive clemency, every judge on the bench who passes sentence has seen how a mother's love covers the multitude of sins. We see it on every hand.

Sometimes it is a wife's love, sometimes a father's, sometimes a friend's. Love does not see the sins the rest of us see. Love rather covers sin with a mantle of charity and forgiveness. Love "suffereth long, and is kind," love "is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil." Yea, Christian charity "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

When we ourselves sin there are always good reasons! The truth is, I myself would never sin at all but for strong reasons. Either I was especially weak or someone especially mistreated me or I was tired or discouraged or deceived by Satan. No, I would never sin at all if there were not some perfectly good reason for it! Or at least, so I tell myself in trying to excuse my sin. Even when I grieve over my sins, I know in my heart where it was that Satan took advantage of me. I know that I intended to do better than I did. I know that though I with my mind serve the law of God, my flesh serves the law of sin. I say that I can understand why I sin and even if I do not excuse it, I ask God to have pity on one like me who really wants to do better

than I do.

But isn't it strange and sad I do not feel the same way about my brother who sins? It seems to me he sinned deliberately and without excuse. It seems to my critical, unloving eye, had I been in his place I would have done far better. The things that tempt him seem to me to be unworthy. Why, I say to myself, I could overcome THAT temptation easily, and I little think how many a brave fight he has made where I would have failed. I little regard the fact that in many places where I am weak he is strong. If his faults are different, his virtues are also different. If we love as we ought, our love will cover the multitude of sins. The unloving, critical spirit will judge my brother's words at what I SUPPOSE they meant, suspecting that his heart was bad. But love will cover the multitude of sins, believing that the motives were good. It makes all the difference in the world when you love people.

Baptists love Baptists and so they do not look for false teaching among Baptists, but woe betide the Methodist or Pentecostalist or Catholic! After all, much of our criticism is not on the facts but on our interpretation of the facts. Figures, it is true, do not lie, but our interpretation of the figures may lie and our interpretation will be colored by our love. Love covers the multitude of sins.

Our Charity Will Help God Cover Our Own Sin

"Will love cover our brother's sins?" you say. Ah, yes, and blessed be God, love will cover our own sins! Do you remember that the Saviour said, "When you stand praying, forgive if you have ought against any?" (Mark 11:25). And we are plainly taught that if we will not forgive, neither will our Father in Heaven forgive us our trespasses. Well, this is another way of saying that love is the only thing that can cover our sins. We do never perfectly keep the law of God. None of us are worthy. All of us must confess that we have fallen far short of the will of God. But love is the fulfillment of the law! (Gal. 5:14). Love covers all of our duty to God. Even so, love covers all of our duty to man. Those we love we will not try to harm. Those we love we will see in their best light. And in covering their sins with our love, we cover our own.

I do not mean that our sins are forgiven simply because of any goodness or desert on our part. They are not. But love is the best indication of a heart that is pleasing to God, a penitent, contrite heart, anxious to please God, loving God, surrendered to the will of God. The best evidence that we are born of God is this that we love our brother. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). Love covers our own sins! It may be that you who read this have fallen far into sin. You ought to confess it and forsake it and seek God's face. With sincere heart you should repent of the things that have grieved God. But you may be sure that if in your heart the Lord has put a love for others, it is a sign of His work of grace.

How Wicked Is Unforgiveness

Do you remember the case of the king who had a steward who owed him ten thousand talents and could not pay? The king, Jesus said, frankly forgave him all. But this lord had a servant who owed him an hundred pence. He went and seized him by the throat and cast him in prison until he should pay him all. The servants were sorry, and when the king heard about it he was greatly angered and cast this ungrateful man into prison until he too should pay all he owed. And Jesus said, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses" (Matt. 18:35). How sinful, then, it is in God's sight for us not to love those whom Jesus loved and forgave. What a blessed trade it is, what a holy bargain for us when we receive complete forgiveness for all our sins and God simply asks us to forgive others their small sins against us. Yes, love truly covers the multitude of sins, our own sins as well as our brother's.

Let us then take to heart this plain and sweet command, "And above all things have fervent

Notes on Alcohol And on Drinking

From the National Voice Magazine, a splendid bi-weekly anti-liquor magazine, we take the following notes. We hope many will subscribe at \$2.00 a year to the National Voice. Miss Ethel Hubler is editor, Dr. Sam Morris is an associate editor. (315 So. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif.)

Science Speaks What Is Alcohol?

Scientific Temperance Journal
What is alcohol? It is a poison and acts upon the brain as an anesthetic. We are speaking about ethyl alcohol, which is found in liquor, wine and beer. The very word "intoxicated" means "being poisoned." Dr. Frederick Lemere, a Seattle psychiatrist and neurologist, says: "Alcohol is a habit forming drug and should be grouped with the narcotics and barbiturates, for it can produce physical as well as psychological habituation." Dr. William F. Boos, toxicologist, states: "Alcohol is a poison classed among the narcotic drugs along with chloral, ethyl chloride, chloroform, ether, toluol and benzol. It acts as poisons act."

What is an alcoholic? A drinker who has lost control of his ability to stop drinking is an alcoholic.

Alcoholics Burden On Welfare Cited

NEW YORK—One out of every four families appealing to New York City for assistance does so because the father is an alcoholic, says City Welfare Commissioner Henry L. McCarthy.

Brewers Told, 'Encourage Employees to Drink'

The Pentecostal Herald
Noting that beer sales failed to show any increase last year, American Brewer had this suggestion to offer to the liquor industry. "Make the serving of beer predominate at all industry events . . . Each employee is a potential salesman, and must be encouraged not only to drink beer but promote its usage among families and friends."

A cartoonist depicted what might happen to an employee called into a brewery president's office where he would hear his employer say, "You're looking better; your work has improved; but you've quit drinking. You're fired!"

Inconsistency Mary Starck Kerr

I was just thinking, those who wanted the Eighteenth Amendment repealed, said that the reason people were drinking, was because it was forbidden, and that when liquor was legalized, people would become temperate. If those who were deceived by this line of reasoning look around now, don't they notice that legalizing alcoholic beverages instead of making people temperate, has produced millions of alcoholics, and each year their numbers are being multiplied. It is a good thing to be a little slow about believing the arguments of liquor advocates.

"Make it right to sell whisky, and you can't prove that committing murder is wrong."

Your Tax Money Helps Pay This Bill

In one of America's larger cities, reports U. S. News and World Report, the cost of one drunk who had been arrested 285 times was \$45,373, according to the Pentecostal Evangel. This included police and court costs, hospital care and jail expenses. Total fines assessed against the man were \$510—which means that one man's drunkenness cost that city's taxpayers \$44,863.

While taxpayers may not mind helping an unfortunate person, they certainly have the right to become alarmed about a system which through false and misleading advertising, is making thousands of additional alcoholics every year; a system which is adding expenses to every city's budget—expenses which liquor taxes do not come close to paying!

Liquor is not just another industry. It is an insidious monster that affects our entire economy. And your tax money helps pay the bill.

charity among yourselves; for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

Topeka Women Do Something About Sale of Beer in Grocery Stores

By Roy S. Hollomon, In The American Issue

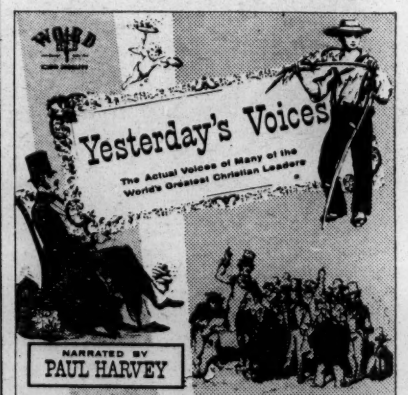
TOPEKA, Kans.—The women of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Topeka, led by Mrs. Alice Blackwood, have planned an active campaign concerning the sale of beer in grocery stores. They have secured a list of all grocers that sell beer in Topeka. They have taken these names from their list. The remaining ones will be screened, as to whether they remain open on Sunday. Those that do not will be put on an "Approved List," and that list made public.

This is an excellent idea, and may very profitably be emulated by the women in every church in every town where beer is sold in grocery stores. If this were done by all church women, we predict that it would not be long until beer would be taken from many grocery stores, and only those stores that would cater to such business, would still have it on their shelves.

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The School Board of the Christian School Association of Mexico Comprised of Many Denominations



Back row: Clarence Bossett, David Currie, Richard Day
Front row: William Nebray, Irene Aanderud, Thomas Fountain

Christian School to Open in Mexico

In an effort to meet the need of hundreds of missionary families in Mexico, Christian business men and missionaries from many evangelical groups in Mexico City announce their intention to open a boarding and day school for their children late this year. Mexico is one of few remaining countries where no such school undergirds evangelical missionary efforts.

Following a completely Ameri-

can school plan with an adequate Spanish emphasis, the new institution will open late (Dec. 28).

While initial enrollment will be limited to about 40 students, members of the seven-man School Board anticipate rapid growth, and will undertake to raise \$10,000 for the immediate needs of the project. Gifts will be forwarded to the school through the Mexico Christian School Fund, Inc., at Box 549, Bryant Bldg., Lakeland, Florida. Corresponding secretary Thomas Fountain will handle inquiries about the school as well as applications for teaching and house-parent positions which are yet open. His address is Apartado 1475, Mexico City.

They Solve Problems!

By Viola Walden

Here is a group of pamphlets which answer honest questions with facts and Scriptures. They are written in a kindly vein; give the facts which are convincing to young and old. They actually represent an intelligent and spiritual Christian position which can be maintained.

What Is Wrong With the Movies?

This much used book by Dr. John R. Rice contains ten chapters as follows:

1. The Power of the Movies: What I Will Prove: Why I Quit
 2. Movies Are Made By Sinful, Wicked People, Unfit to Be Examples
 3. Greed and Notoriety—Sinful Motives of the Movies—Reveal Their Wickedness
 4. What Movies Are About: Films Deal Principally in Sex, Crime, and Impure Love Themes
 5. The Movies Encourage Crime, Endorse Sin, Teach Lust
 6. Physical, Nervous, and Mental Results Caused By Movies
 7. Movies Proved a School for Crime: Actually Produce Criminals
 8. Movies Break Down Virtue, Inflame Lust, Definitely Cause Delinquency
 9. Spiritual Results of the Movies
 10. What Should You Do About the Movies?
- There are 116 pages, priced at 85c.

What's Wrong With the Dance?

First given as an address in the big brick tabernacle of what is now the Galilean Baptist Church in Dallas, this message was added to by Dr. Rice and published in this form. It shows that the modern dance is the mother of lust, the sister of drunkenness, lewdness and murder, and the road to Hell. It is in pungent, colloquial language, unrevised. There are 44 pages, priced at 35c.

Lodges Examined by the Bible

Dr. Rice himself joined the Masonic Lodge with honest, good intentions. Here he tells how he came to see the sin of being yoked up with unbelievers, the sin of taking the bloody oaths of the lodge. With ten years of study he has uncovered for us the false religion of the lodge which teaches salvation by works and character instead of by the blood of Christ. He gives the testimony of mighty men of the past as to why Christians should not belong to secret orders. Here is an amazing wealth of facts. The book is written with such restraint, with such scriptural help, with such spiritual understanding. Here are included many little-known facts about the lodges, the oaths, the doctrines, the work of the lodges.

The book contains 80 large pages, price 60c.

Speaking With Tongues

These 79 pages are taken from the big book, *The Power of Pentecost*.

cost. It deals very kindly with the question of speaking in tongues under the following heads:

1. My Personal Testimony
2. What Speaking With Tongues Meant in the Bible
3. Speaking in Tongues Is Not the Bible Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
4. A Tongues Heresy in Bible Times
5. The Proper Attitude for All Toward Speaking in Tongues

Dr. Rice does not oppose the fullness of the Spirit but rather encourages it. He shows from the Bible that speaking in tongues was never intended as the evidence of the fullness of the Spirit. This book leads to better fellowship and to a clear understanding of the Bible teaching on this question. By all means get it.

The book has 79 pages, price 60c.

Seven Secrets of a Happy, Prosperous Christian Life

Here Dr. Rice shows how the assurance of salvation, baptism, church membership, regular reading and use of the Word of God, a deeply serious prayer life with the regular habit of definite, persistent praying, joyful, systematic, proportionate giving, and earnest soul winning are the seven secrets of a happy and prosperous Christian life. This book will transform lives. It should be given to all new converts.

The book contains 64 pages, price 50c.

Bible Facts About Heaven

Here is a beautiful gift book. Sixty-four pages printed in blue ink with a shining, sparkling crystalline cover that will make it a festive and treasured gift. Here is devotional reading at its best. Here is Bible teaching reverent and scholarly. Here is comfort for the bereaved. Here is a book that makes Heaven real, makes the death of a Christian not fearsome but welcome. It has a strong appeal to the unsaved and over two hundred write that they have been won to Christ through it. Give it to every bereaved home. A woman writes that she came to Christ through this book given by the pastor who preached her husband's funeral. Have several copies on hand for the bereaved, the old, the sick, the troubled.

Sixty-four pages, price 60c, four copies, \$2.00.

Amusements for Christians

Dr. Rice deals with a great variety of amusements such as dancing, skating, ball games, operas and plays, mixed bathing, television, bowling, movies and various games. More in the line of what young people can properly do than what they cannot. Young people and youth leaders will especially welcome this. Twelve different sections, forty-eight helpful pages, paper binding, 35c.

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With the Evangelists

By the Editor

EVANGELIST PHIL SHULER, 5760 West 60th, Arvada, Colorado, recently held a one-week meeting in the Temple Baptist Church of Fullerton, California. Rev. Arthur L. Peters, pastor, reports 15 first-time decisions for Christ in addition to 28 boys and girls who came for salvation at a Saturday morning children's meeting. There were many other decisions made by Christians for rededication, to become soul-winning Christians and to overcome worldly habits. At two high school Bible clubs, 20 young people came to accept Christ as Saviour. Attendance at the meetings began with 175 on Monday night and ended with a record of 472 on Sunday.

EVANGELIST FRANK DUNCAN, 21 Pine Street, Inman, South Carolina, held a one-week meeting at the Good News Baptist Church at Norfolk, Virginia. The pastor, D. M. Hardison, reports that approximately 20 people were saved and nearly 100 rededicated their lives to the Lord. At the Calvary Baptist Church of Buena Vista, Virginia, where Rev. Earl Cook is pastor, Evangelist Duncan saw 29 professions of faith and a number of rededications.

EVANGELIST BOB PERSSON, 11 Winthrop Avenue, Greenville, South Carolina, held a revival in October at the Grace Baptist Church of Norfolk, Virginia, where Rev. J. S. Taylor is pastor. There were 8 first-time decisions for Christ, 1 rededication and a number who surrendered to full-time Christian service.

EVANGELIST GEORGE REESOR of Eldorado, Texas, recently held an eight-day revival in the Calvary Baptist Church in Uvalde, Texas. The pastor, Leland Maples, reports that there were 2 conversions, 3 who joined the church by letter, 1 who surrendered to the ministry and many rededications. Brother Reesor is a graduate of Tennessee Temple Schools and the pastor highly recommends him as an evangelist.

EVANGELIST CLARENCE E. SHARER, 320 Harrison Street, Anoka, Minnesota, recently held a revival at the First Baptist Church of St. Anne, Illinois, George Abbas, pastor, October 11-18. There were 5 professions of faith in Christ and 20 Christians who made other decisions.

EVANGELIST J. BENNETT COLLINS, 38 Buena Vista Street, Greenville, South Carolina, was in the First Baptist Church of North East, Maryland, October 5-18. There were 13 professions of faith in Christ, 9 reclamations and several rededications. The pastor, Bradley W. Spencer, heartily recommends Brother Collins as a Spirit-filled evangelist.

REV. DON WINTERS from Coshocton, Ohio, held evangelistic services at the Calvary Baptist Church of Massena, New York, October 21—November 1. There were 36 decisions made, most of them for salvation.

EVANGELIST DENZEL MILLER, 2742 - 4th Avenue, Huntington 2, West Virginia, together with Brother Paul Collins, chalk artist, held a revival at the Chelsea Baptist Church of Chelsea, Michigan, October 27—November 1. There were 8 young people who made decisions for Christ as Saviour and several adults who rededicated their lives to soul winning. The pastor reports a good spiritual blessing upon the church in the meetings.

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Hear Voice of Revival

(Messages by Dr. John R. Rice)

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"God Hath Chosen the Weak . . ."

(Continued from page 1)

and harass him, than to use Paul without the trials and temptations! God has chosen it that way. He insists that there must be a big God and little men, a great and wonderful Saviour for unworthy bad sinners.

God had rather defeat a hundred thousand Midianites with Gideon's three hundred men with pitchers and lamps, by the power of God, than by the heroism of thirty-two thousand Israelitish soldiers! God would rather defeat Goliath by the stripling boy David with a sling and a stone thrown and dependence on God, than to defeat him by the manly courage of more evenly matched soldiers! "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are."

Why is this God's definite policy, a deliberate choice of His? Why are not many wise, nor many noble, but mostly poor, ignorant, and weak used of God? For this wonderful purpose, "That no flesh should glory in his presence" (vs. 29). God wants Christ Jesus to be made to us wisdom, instead of our own wisdom. Christ is to be made to us righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Jesus Christ is to be everything and we nothing. God wanted John the Baptist to decrease and Jesus to increase. So He wants man to be poor and helpless so God will get the glory. All this so that "according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

In order to give God the glory, God gave to ignorant, finite men His infinite Saviour, Jesus, to save people who are unworthy. To give God glory He chose to use people who are powerless and ignorant in themselves. He chooses to let us who are the weakest and most tempted and troubled have part

with Him in His blessed work so Jesus Christ can have the glory!

I. SO GOD DELIBERATELY CHOSE UNWORTHY, INADEQUATE, FINITE MEN TO WRITE THE ETERNAL, INFALLIBLE WORD OF GOD

Our text is I Corinthians 1:26-31. But the whole passage about God's using the weak begins back with the seventeenth verse, and it goes on through the second chapter of First Corinthians, too. There we find that blessed principle of God choosing the weak, the base, the despised things; God choosing the foolish things to confound the wise, the strong. The Lord particularly insists that in the matter of divine revelation He avoided any use of man's wisdom, man's knowledge, man's philosophy. In I Corinthians 2:7-10 Paul was inspired to write:

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

So we have in the Bible the wisdom of God, the hidden wisdom "which none of the princes of this world knew." God in mercy has revealed these wonderful things to us by His Spirit.

1. Human Writers of Bible Were Generally Ignorant, Insignificant Men

Who were the writers of the Bible? Mostly ordinary people. Amos the prophet received the eternal prophecies that he wrote down while "among the herdmen of Tekoa" (Amos 1:1). When Amariah, the priest of Bethel, warned Amos and forbade his

prophecy any further in Samaria of Jeroboam's coming death and the captivity of Israel, Amos answered, "I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit: And the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel" (Amos 7:14, 15). A common laborer, almost illiterate, yet God gave him miraculous prophecies about the destruction of the nation Israel, as well as of Moab. He told of Jeroboam's coming death and that the priest Amaziah's wife would be a harlot. For detailed and amazing prophecies which no one could possibly foresee by human wisdom, God simply took an unlettered, common laborer to write for Him! "God hath chosen the weak."

The apostles chosen by the Lord Jesus came out of the common folk at despised Nazareth. "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Nathanael asked, very properly (John 1:46). John the fisherman was chosen to write five books of the New Testament, and Peter was chosen to write two epistles. And in all Jerusalem it was notorious, everywhere acknowledged "that they were unlearned and ignorant men" (Acts 4:13), though they spoke with such power. James, the half brother of Jesus, grew up in the poor village in the carpenter shop. And yet he was called to write the book of James. You see, God had deliberately intended that the integrity of the Bible would not depend on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God, the revelation of God.

If they were living today it is doubtful if more than two of the approximately forty writers of the Bible could write articles for the Encyclopedia Britannica, or write any textbook. Perhaps Moses and Luke could do so, though we cannot judge since we have no examples of their writing except that which is inspired of God, and that does not represent their wisdom and not necessarily their own style. David today might be able to write a magazine article, though we are not sure. Certainly the writers of the Bible did not

compare in the opinion of men with the learned and gifted writers of Greece and Rome. As writers of secular literature, uninspired, none of these wrote to compare with the Jewish historian Josephus.

Who wrote the book of Job? It was probably written before Genesis, because there is not any reference to the Mosaic law in it. It contains some of the deepest philosophy in literature, yet we have no idea who wrote it. Yes, we do. God wrote it. The human instrument chosen to write it was unimportant and unrecorded.

In the New Testament there has been a controversy all through the centuries about the book of Hebrews. Was it Paul who wrote it, or Barnabas or Thomas, or someone else utterly unknown? I personally like to think it was the Apostle Paul. But God seems to deliberately have left the authorship unknown. God wants a big Bible and little men, big revelation and little of human sources. "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

2. God Specially Disavows That Any Credit for the Bible Should Go to Men's Experience, or to Eye-witnesses, or to Human Philosophy

In speaking of this "wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom . . . which none of the princes of this world knew," Paul said, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (I Cor. 2:9, 10).

Where did the material in the Bible come from, whence came the thoughts, the facts, the history, the truths, even the words of the Scripture? From men who wrote out of their experience? No! For He says, "As it is written,

Eye hath not seen . . . the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." If Paul mentioned some fact in connection with his own life, he did it by direct revelation of the Spirit. When he was writing Scripture, Paul never wrote out of his own knowledge. When he wrote the Psalms, David never wrote from what his own eyes had seen. Luke never wrote down anything on the authority of what he himself had experienced with Paul on the missionary journeys, as a source of authority. No, these things, written in the Bible, "Eye hath not seen . . . but God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit."

How do we know that the things written in Matthew's Gospel are correct? Do we know it because Matthew (Levi, the converted tax collector) saw these things with his own eyes? Oh no! These matters of God's wisdom are not written because men's eyes have

(Continued on page 7)

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Book Reviews

(Continued from page 3)

revelation, obedience, all law, holiness, justice and mercy, spiritual perspective, doctrine and duty, Christ's Messiahship, Christ's teachings, redemption, faith, divine manifestations and means of grace.

GREAT PERSONALITIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT by William Sandford LaSor (Fleming H. Revell Company; 192 pp.; \$3.00).

It is a series of studies dealing with the lives and times of outstanding Old Testament characters such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Ruth, Samuel, David, Solomon, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Ezra.

The book makes interesting reading, contains considerable information about the customs of the day in which these men of God lived, and will probably prove suggestive for sermonizing to preachers. However, it is most unfortunate that the author apparently denies the premillennial position by saying that "the kingdom which was not made with human hands has come and struck the kingdoms of the world" (p. 173), and again "it was in the fourth kingdom that the Messianic kingdom arose" (p. 172), placing the Messianic kingdom in the past tense, not the future. LaSor also makes exclusive use of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, reaffirms his conviction that "young woman" is the correct translation of Isaiah 7:14, and, in addition, makes several fanciful statements which I seemingly find impossible to support by either fact or Scripture.

THINGS WHICH DON'T HAPPEN EVERY DAY By G. B. Sparks (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; 216 pp.; \$3.50).

This is the kind of a book which doesn't happen every day — unfortunately. Here are 110 unusual stories told by an unusual millionaire who loves the Lord

with all his heart. Brief, often humorous, always Christ-exalting, these stories make up the caliber of book you will find mighty difficult to lay down.

Mr. Sparks is a soul winner. Every story has a spiritual application. This is an excellent book to place in the hands of Christian laymen. Too, it is the kind that the unsaved will read—and profit from.

THE SUFFERINGS IN THE GLORY OF THE LORD'S RIGHTEOUS SERVANT by Robert D. Culver (Christian Service Foundation; 171 pp.; \$2.50, cloth; 75 cents, paper).

Here are five messages based on the prophecy of Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and dealing with the mystery, rejection, atonement, submission, exaltation, and identity of the servant of the Lord. They are scholarly, reverent, helpful and true to the Bible in the historic Christian position. The final chapter, dealing with the identity of the Servant, is especially helpful.

THE EVIDENCE OF GOD IN AN EXPANDING UNIVERSE, edited by John Clover Monsma (G. P. Putnam's Sons; 250 pp.; \$3.75).

Here are forty brief papers by forty reputable scientists including biologists, chemists, surgeons, physiologists, mathematicians, soil physicists, chemical engineers, botanists, astronomers, zoologists, myophysics and many others. Published in connection with the International Geophysical Year, the editor's purpose is in combating the popular misconception that science undermines faith. The editor states in his Introduction: "The basic postulate of this book, its point of departure, is that science can establish, by the observed acts of Nature and intellectual argumentation, that a superhuman Power exists. It cannot identify that Power or describe it, except in very general terms. For identification in more detailed description special revelation (the Bible) is needed. But by proceeding from the basic postulate I

feel our scientists have struck effectively at the heart of atheism" (p. 12).

Of course, one would not expect theological thought or doctrinal language from the pens of scientists, but many of the statements are refreshing and inspiring. However, it should be clear that some of the papers teach evolution (though with some heart-warming exceptions) as the "mechanism" God used in creation, even to the extent of declaring it to be "fact," not theory ("how science has shown that it came into existence in a single great creative explosion which began some five billion years ago" (p. 51). With that we disagree. Evolution which rules out a Designer and Creator is emphatically rejected.

This book will do much good, I feel. Preachers, Sunday School teachers and youth leaders will especially want the material in this book and it would be good to place into the hand of the student being plagued by a teacher wise in his own conceits by going beyond that which science has written.

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION by Peter T. Person (Baker Book House; 224 pp.; \$3.75).

Planned as a textbook for an introductory course in Christian education to be used in Bible institutes, colleges or seminaries, its sixteen chapters give a survey of the entire field of Christian education including the Sunday School, vacation Bible school, week day release time classes, youth camps, the Christian press, etc. Review questions and questions for discussion at the close of each chapter and answers are practical.

Dr. Person quotes modernists like Georgia Harkness and Ralph Sockman favorably and is not clear on some of his statements, for example, his declaration that an "infant is from birth . . . a child of God" and that "such a child needs a personal commitment in order that he may continue as a child of God" (p. 49).

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"God Hath Chosen the Weak . . ."

(Continued from page 6)

seen them, but by divine revelation.

Did the writers of the Bible talk with others and so verify what they wrote? Did Mark consult with Peter and write down what that apostle told him of the life and death of Jesus? Oh no! So a church father thought, but he was mistaken. He should have read this divinely inspired answer. Not only "eye hath not seen," but we are told, "nor ear heard . . . the things that God hath prepared for them that love him." Mark wrote down not what he had heard from Peter, but what the Spirit of God told him to write down. Peter would have had mistakes, bias, misunderstanding. Mark wrote down the God-breathed words of divine revelation.

Did Luke talk with Mary, perhaps, and so learn about the virgin birth? And can we trust this account because we trust Luke's scholarly accuracy and Mary's integrity? Oh no! What men wrote of the wisdom of God, "the hidden wisdom . . . which none of the princes of this world knew," they wrote by direct inspiration of God, for "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard . . . the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." God chose humble men, and through these ignorant, inadequate, finite, fallible men, had written by divine inspiration the infallible wisdom of God!

And did Paul (if Paul wrote Hebrews) figure out for himself with long-studied meditation the meaning of Jewish sacrifices and priesthoods and ceremonials? Was Paul really, in his wonderful insight, his gifted mind, his trained logic, able to figure out the spiritual meaning of Old Testament forms? Oh no! The things that Paul wrote down, he wrote what "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of men." It was not by gifted men, nor intelligent men, nor informed men, nor men of careful research, nor of moral integrity, that we have the Bible. We have the Bible by the inspiration of God. "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit."

To us, Paul the Apostle seems greatly at a disadvantage compared with the other apostles. He was not converted until after the crucifixion. He had heard none of the parables of Jesus, none of the rich teaching and instruction of those three and a half years which the other apostles had. When Paul was saved on the road to Damascus and filled with the Spirit and began to preach, how could he be sure that he was preaching correctly, the great spiritual truths? Paul said, "I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:11, 12).

After fourteen years Paul went up to Jerusalem and talked with the elders and discovered that he was preaching the same Gospel they were (Gal. 2). Paul got it by divine inspiration as did the other apostles. They had not figured it out. They had not gotten it secondhand from somebody else. It was given directly from God.

That is the same thing that Jesus said to Simon Peter, when Peter made that tremendous declaration at Caesarea Philippi, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." And we are told, "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 16:16, 17).

In writing His Bible, God chose to deliver the mighty wisdom of God to unlearned and ignorant men, fallible, mistaken, inadequate men, so that the power and glory might be of God and not of men.

Ah! these foolish people who long to have some human explanation, some natural explanation for the Bible! They have missed the whole point of divine revelation. Those who try to find sources for the Synoptic Gospels in the so-called "Q" manuscript, those who try to trace Matthew and Luke back to an hypothetic early

copy of Mark's Gospel, those who try to find in Genesis traces copied from Babylonian tablets, and those who claim that the stories of Kings and Chronicles were copied from fallible human records, should notice that God here explicitly disclaims any such idea. Men did not write on the authority of what they saw, nor what they heard from good witnesses, nor what they reasoned and conceived in their own hearts. God revealed these things by His Spirit. And God chose weak, fallible men to write the immortal words of God, that God should have the glory and not men.

II. IN SAVING SINNERS GOD CHOOSES THE WEAK, THE VILE, THE UNWORTHY

God's wonderful plan of salvation would never have been planned by men. All the false religions in the world put the emphasis on man's goodness or man's works or human ceremonies, or human institutions or merits, instead of on the unmerited grace of God for Hell-deserving sinners.

On this matter Mohammedans, Mormons, modernists, Roman Catholics, the lodges and the moralists all agree. Man must work to be saved, must do something good to be saved, must join something good to be saved, must go through certain good rites in order to be saved. In other words, according to all the human plans, man in some way must earn his salvation. But God's way is not man's way. God has chosen to save sinners by grace.

1. God Provides All the Righteousness for Salvation

There is something shocking to human wisdom and human sense of propriety in God's drastic statement in Romans 4:4, 5, "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Read these verses and see how they go against all human wisdom. Who is it here who gets saved? "Him that worketh not." Who is it here who gets saved? It is the ungodly! God saves people who do not deserve it, ungodly, wicked people who do not do anything to deserve salvation! So the Scripture says.

In explaining the matter further, the Holy Spirit quotes from Psalm 32, "Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (Rom. 4:6-8).

What do these verses say? They say the shocking thing that God counts a man righteous who is not righteous. They say that God covers over certain people's sins and will not look at them! God will not charge up certain people's sins to them. Here is a clear case that God saves people who do not deserve saving, saves people who are not fit to save!

In ordaining Evangelist Joe Miller at Calvary Baptist Church several years ago, a godly preacher asked him, "What do you mean by salvation by grace?" Brother Miller answered, "I mean that God loves people who are unlovable and saves people who ought to go to Hell." And so God does.

I am not surprised at the indignation expressed by a prominent lodge member, a Unitarian, over Billy Sunday's preaching, and over an orthodox statement of faith. But God counted Jesus a sinner when He did not sin, so that God can count us who believe on Christ as righteous, though we are not personally righteous!

Now if I were going to found a new religion and make a plan of salvation, I would probably try to save only the good people. I would probably have a plan of salvation for people who do right, people who do not drink or curse or steal or lie. For nice, kind, good, thoughtful people I would offer salvation. But that is not what God does. In the first place, God is far more strict than I

Help 50 Million...

(Continued from page 1)

and the wisdom of God in preaching to the multitude!

You Can Help Us Bless These Fifty Million People

This is written November 11. We are behind on much of October's broadcasting bill. Also we owe, for thousands of pamphlets sent out free, for postage, secretarial help, etc., nearly eight thousand dollars. We have yet the November and December expenses to care for. But we are earnestly asking God and His people to help us pay every bill and come to the new year with every bill paid.

It usually takes a year, or a year and a half, to make enough friends and get enough regular listeners and supporters for a new broadcast to pay for itself. We have had great growth and blessing in the broadcast in this wonderful year. But now it is time that we should have enough regular listeners, enough regular supporters to pay the bills for this nation-wide broadcast.

The broadcast was launched as a matter of faith and in much prayer. Thousands have been blessed and have written to tell us so. A fine number have been saved. Six or seven wrote to say that they were saved through one little pamphlet given out last month, *Crossing the Deadline*. Thousands of Christians who live where no Bible-preaching and Bible-believing church is available have listened with great joy, they tell us, and with great spiritual help, to the broadcast. We know that God has put His blessing on

the sweet singing, the revival emphasis, the strong, plain and tender preaching such as He has used in our city-wide campaigns all over America. This is a legitimate and very fruitful missionary cause. Here we can get out the Gospel to millions of people in America. Will you help now, and help regularly?

We Unselfishly Ask You to Have Part in What We Are Doing

I am asking you to do only what I myself do. Through this year I have given hundreds of dollars for the radio broadcast. Out of my offerings for revivals and conferences, I have put aside as much as I can for the Lord's work, and much of that I have felt impressed to put on the radio. I came in the other day from a blessed engagement where from the sacrificial giving of God's people I had \$187. I felt led to put all of that on the radio.

Besides, I am glad to give my time freely to this work. I live on the freewill offerings of God's people, and I take not a penny from the radio broadcast. It is such a joy to preach to the millions. There is such opportunity for blessing. And America needs a revival so badly! And you will not wonder that I find the deepest joy and that my heart is greatly moved at the privilege of preaching on this broadcast each Sunday over the radio, in a broadcast that makes it possible for the majority of the population in America to tune in and hear if they would.

And of course you remember that the Sword of the Lord Foundation is a nonprofit corporation.

I do not own THE SWORD. I get no profit from it, take no salary from it. I do not own the broadcast. I take no salary from it and of course could take no profit. God's people are good to supply my needs in love offerings wherever I preach. I am simply asking you to join in my burden, join in my prayer, and join in my giving to the "Voice of Revival" broadcast. I believe it will greatly honor God.

This Is a Most Serious Problem

The payment of every bill by January 1 is important. In the first place, we cannot carry on the broadcast unless the bills are paid. We would have to get off of some of the stations and not renew the contract the first of the year, if we find that we are not able to pay these bills promptly.

But if the Lord helps us to pay all these bills, we will be encouraged to go into 1960 with greater effort, more zeal and, we trust, with much greater results. We are learning as we go. And if God prospers the work we will expand it until every person in America can hear the "Voice of Revival" broadcast if they will.

Please check our radio log carefully. Even if you have to sit up late to hear the "Voice of Revival" on WLS Chicago, 11:00 p. m. Central Standard Time (10:00 p. m. in Mountain Time, 12:00 p. m. Eastern Standard Time), we think it will prove a real blessing to you. We want your fellowship in listening, in praying, and, as God leads you and as you are able, in your support of the broadcast. But at least everyone can pray, most of you can listen, and most of you can tell others where to hear the broadcast. Will you be a prayer-partner, a good-will partner for this revival broadcast?

We feel we must have many regular givers. Please pray about it and then let us hear from you as God leads. Address "Voice of Revival," Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

The Messiah

Foretold by the prophets, longed for by men,
Heralded by angels, ministered by them;
Followed by thousands as earth's path He trod,
Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God!

Forsaken, rejected, He took my place;
Bearing my sin, my blame, and disgrace.
So much He loved me, a creature of sod,
This Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God!
—Margaret Wendel

would be in what He counts as righteousness. And human righteousness is never righteous enough to meet God's standard. In the second place, God is determined that in Heaven no sinner will go around praising himself and taking even an ounce of the credit for his salvation. All the glory must go to Jesus Christ Himself. So God offers salvation by grace to wicked sinners who do not deserve it and cannot deserve it.

2. Salvation Not of Works But of Grace

Isn't that what the Lord teaches us in Ephesians 2:4-9? "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

How are people saved? "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." People are not saved by works. People are not partly saved by works. People are not kept saved by works. Every person who ever got saved, got saved without deserving it. I did not deserve salvation when I got it. I have not deserved it since.

Why has God made such a plan? Why did He go to such infinite trouble and pain in letting the dear Saviour suffer the torments of the damned on the cross for us? He did this so "that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:7). Oh, how can I ever cease to praise such a Saviour for such love! And why does not God let me have some little part in this salvation? That is re-

fused and man's work counts nothing, "lest any man should boast."

Foolish men stand up in prayer meeting and say, "I want everybody to pray for me that I may hold out faithful." But you can't hold out faithful because you never started faithful. You are a poor undeserving sinner who ought to be in Hell. It is only God's mercy which saves you, God's mercy which keeps you.

Somebody else will stand to testify and say, "I am determined to go through. I am resolved to make Heaven my home." Poor deluded soul, it takes a lot more than determination to get to Heaven. It takes the blood of Jesus Christ and the mercy of God who saves unworthy sinners not fit to be saved!

I have an agreement with God that when I get to Heaven I am going around ever so often to listen to all the praises of sinners dug out of the mire and saved and cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Oh, I hope and trust God will give me such a tongue of praises as no angel ever used to glorify God! And I have resolved that if I hear anybody say, "Look at me! I held out faithful! I worked hard and

(Continued on page 8)

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"God Hath Chosen the Weak . . ."

(Continued from page 7)

did my best and held on to God, so I finally made it into Heaven"—I say, if I hear that kind of boasting, with anybody taking any part of the credit that properly belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ alone, credit that should be untouched by any human boast, I am going to call the Angel Gabriel and together he and I will pitch that blasphemous booster over the banisters and out of Heaven! No, in Heaven every knee must bow to Jesus. God has given Him the pre-eminence in everything. Everybody in Heaven and earth and Hell will praise Jesus Christ and admit that He is Lord.

You see, in this matter of salvation God has determined that there will be a great Saviour and poor, sorry, worthless sinners. God has determined that the praise and the glory shall go to the Lord Jesus Christ who earned it, and not to any man for his right living.

3. The Sinner Cannot Even Help Pay for Salvation

God is determined that it will be a big Jesus and a little church. The church cannot save. All this emphasis on the church, and whether you mean a local congregation or a so-called "ecumenical church," has a tendency to take the glory from Jesus Christ. The church cannot save. The church cannot call anyone to preach. The church does not control the Great Commission. To be saved, every sinner must come to God directly through Jesus Christ. If he would be a preacher, every preacher must listen to the voice of God through the Holy Spirit. Every man who gives acceptably must give to God instead of to his church, to his denomination. On the matter of salvation or service, Jesus Christ will not share His glory with men.

I heard Dr. Harry A. Ironside tell the wonderful story, which came from England, about a widow whose daughter was seriously sick. Each day this widow went to her work along the back of a great estate, then she returned with her meager earnings. The little girl longed to have fresh fruit. In fact, she became obsessed with the idea of fresh grapes. Oh, if she could have some fresh grapes! The mother explained that she did not have the money. Finally, the mother going to and from her work and passing the back of the great estate (whose, she did not know) saw purple grapes hanging ripe on the vine through the barred gate. If she could only buy some of those grapes for her sick daughter, perhaps the little one

would get well!

One day by some strange fate the gate was open, so she went inside. She had saved up a couple of shillings. Approaching the man who attended the plants, she said, "May I buy some grapes for my sick daughter? She is so sick; she wants some grapes."

Astonished, the man looked up and said, "How did you get in here? The gate is supposed never to be left open. Out you must go!"

"But I only want to buy a few grapes for my daughter. She is so sick!"

The caretaker scolded and hustled her away indignantly. Suddenly a voice called and said, "What is it, James?" Embarrassed, the gardener said, "Forgive me, your majesty; someone left the gate open and a woman came inside, but I have told her she must hurry out as no one is allowed in here. I am so sorry that someone by oversight left the gate open."

But the voice then called the woman and said, "Wait, lady, come here and tell me your story."

So the poor widow came before the tall stranger, evidently the lord of the estate and told him, "I have saved up two shillings. If I could only buy a bunch of purple grapes for my poor, sick daughter. I will save up some more money and bring it if I may only have some grapes."

"Bring your basket," he said, and then began to pull long bunches of ripe, purple grapes from the vine. Cluster after cluster he piled in the basket.

She protested that she had only two shillings, and could not pay for more but he filled the basket and then patted her shoulder and told her she might go away.

She tried to force on him the two shillings, but he said to her, "The king's grapes are not for sale! You must take them free to have them at all."

The king, walking in the vineyard, had given freely the grapes to the widow for her sick daughter.

The king's grapes are not for sale! Is the Lord Jesus Christ a common groceryman, or butcher, or baker, or mechanic that you would expect to pay Him for His death upon the cross? Could you suppose that your foolish efforts, your scrappy, uneven righteousness, could help to gain His favor? Would you suppose that your pitiful shillings or pennies could help pay the awful cost that it takes to keep a sinner out of Hell and make him into a child of God?

We insult the Lord Jesus Christ when we pretend we would add anything to the merits which paid for salvation!

When Jesus died on the cross He shouted triumphantly, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). So Jesus was satisfied with the finished work. He went to Heaven and we are told that He sat down on the right hand of the Father. His sacrifice and atoning work was done! God the Father was satisfied, too. And every poor sinner who comes on the merit of the sacrifice already made is freely received. Now there is no more offering for sin. By one sacrifice the Lord Jesus has perfected forever all them that are sanctified or set apart for Him!

Dear sinner, do not try to add to the all-sufficient, perfect, infinite price which has already been paid for man's salvation.

No, God has chosen weak people, sinful people, unworthy people to be saved and to be made into the likeness of His dear Son!

All through the countless ages of eternity God will use unworthy sinners, sinners like Mary Magdalene, sinners like the dying thief, sinners like the "River Rat" Jerry McAuley, sinners like dopeheads and drunkards and harlots and convicts and infidels, and sinners like me! Yes, God will use sinners like us to show how marvelous is His love and mercy and how infinite His grace! You see, God wants the big Saviour and unworthy sinners. God wants man not to have any of the credit, but Jesus Christ to take all the credit for the matter of salvation. God has chosen the weak things to confound the mighty, and however wise and however good anybody in the world may be, if

they do not come to Jesus Christ and trust in His atoning blood throughout the ages of eternity they will be confounded in the salvation of thousands and millions of others weaker than they perhaps and less worthy than they perhaps, but coming freely by God's grace and not by their own works!

III. GOD HATH CHOSEN THE WEAK TO DO HIS WORK

It is for the glory of God, to magnify His grace through the endless ages of eternity, that He calls the weak, the ignorant, the man or woman of limited ability to do His work.

We have shown first that in writing the eternal and perfect Word of God, God used principally limited men, more or less ignorant men, men totally unable with human ability and background to write the things God wanted written.

Second, we have shown that in saving sinners God chose to save poor, undeserving sinners who have no possible way to earn salvation or to deserve salvation but must be saved by the mercy and grace of God alone, altogether apart from human merit.

Now we come really to the heart of the Scripture and so it seems wise to quote again the Scripture with which we started.

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord"—I Cor. 1:26-31.

God used many unlettered men, limited men, and even the most capable men were wholly incapable of writing the Bible except by a supernatural intervention, the miraculous grace of God. That is an important matter in understanding the infallible authority and power of the Bible, but none of us are called upon to write part of the Bible.

It is a wonderful fact that God saves unworthy sinners who can have no merit to deserve or earn salvation. That great truth is important in that lost sinners must come to see their helplessness and ruined condition and depend wholly on God's forgiving grace through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we who would win souls need to know that men can do nothing to justify themselves or to earn a place as children of God. But while the basic fact is important, most of us who read this message are already saved.

But of far more immediate importance to us is the truth that in the matter of serving, preaching, singing, winning souls, and living the Christian life—there, too, God has particularly chosen to use the weak to confound the mighty! God has chosen the foolish to confound the wise. He hath chosen the base things and despised things in order that no flesh shall glory in His presence.

1. How God Has in the Past Used the Weak in His Service

It is true and all can see "how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." But first, is it not amazing that God would use men at all? Millions of angels gladly do the Saviour's bidding. Men make mistakes; angels do not. Men have limited abilities, even to understand the truth or to express it. Angels have all the perfections which men lack. The angels who chanted or sang "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," when the Saviour was born, had purer voices with more perfect tones, and sweeter timbre than were ever lifted from human throats to praise His name! Angels never have doubts; men do. Angels understand per-

fectly the will of God and men never do. And angels never die, but go on millennium after millennium in happy praise and service. Men are ignorant and tainted and weak and subject to a thousand temptations, and unable, alone, to cope with evil spirits.

Yet God chose to use men to tell His story, to preach His Gospel, to present Him on earth! God has chosen the weak, when He chose to use any man. The wisest and best and purest and most gifted man who ever lived is yet, compared with angels, the heavenly creatures whom God could have used, a proof that "God hath chosen the weak" to do His work.

We have already called attention to the weakness of many of the men God used to write the Bible. Amos was simply a herdman and a gatherer of sycamore fruit, a common laborer, almost illiterate. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen not scholars. James, the half brother of Jesus, grew up in a carpenter's shop. And this is simply an illustration that, in service, God has chosen the weak to confound the mighty, so that God Himself should get the credit and glory.

Throughout the Bible God seems to delight in showing that the men He most used were often, by the standards of the time, most unlikely to be used. Joseph was sold into slavery as a lad. He suffered from the most unfavorable series of circumstances. Hated and betrayed by his brothers, slandered and falsely condemned in Potiphar's household, he was put in prison. There he labored for years, forgotten by those he had blessed. Yet God brought him from the prison house to stand before Pharaoh and become second in the kingdom.

Joseph was great, but he had no more natural gifts, we suppose, than his brothers who showed no spark of greatness. Education? He had none; we do not even know whether he could read or write. Cultural fitness for Pharaoh's household and the elite of Egypt? No, his companions had been sheep herders and rough frontiersmen. Joseph had character and faith in God, but none of the preparation or refinements expected of one who would do the work God brought him to do.

John the Baptist grew up in the wilderness. He seems to have been wholly out of step with religious and cultural leadership of his time. And when the Scripture speaks of Peter and John as "ignorant and unlearned men" (Acts 4:13), it speaks of the norm of Christian leadership in New Testament times.

In the time of the judges, Ehud, the second judge, was simply a left-handed man sent to bear a present to the king, who made him a homemade dagger, killed the king, and called Israel to deliverance! Shamgar killed six hundred Philistines with an ox goad. Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, killed the sleeping Sisera by driving a nail into his head. Gideon could only say, "My family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." Jephthah was the son of a harlot cast out by his brethren. Samson was an untutored, passionate roughneck.

Oh, the Bible is full of blessed people God used, with the poorest background. Rahab was a harlot. Ruth, the great-grandmother of Jesse, had been a Moabite widow. David, the greatest king of Israel, had been, as God often reminded him, a sheep herder. This same David was an immature teen-ager when God used him to kill the giant Goliath. Mary Magdalene, who stood by the cross of Christ and has a sweet name in the New Testament, had to be delivered from seven devils.

When we come to think of the great men of God in modern times, we remember that those most used of God have had little human prospects for greatness. Spurgeon never went to college, had only about a grade-school education. In fact, when he went to apply for admission, the serving maid showed him into the wrong room, he missed his appointment, and after long waiting he left without getting to apply for college entrance. Later when he would have planned for college, a voice said to him, "Seekest thou great things for thyself? seek

them not" (Jer. 45:5), and he gave up the idea.

D. L. Moody had about a fifth-grade education. He was won to Christ in a shoe store. To his dying day he made ridiculous mistakes in grammar, yet it is doubtful if any man since the Apostle Paul was ever more greatly used of God, and surely a million or more were saved under his ministry.

Billy Sunday had a high school education. He preached in baseball slang. He had some laughable ideas. But he had a tongue on fire and the boldness of a lion and the mighty power of God upon him. His biographer said that Billy Sunday was "God's laugh at the preachers." All the colleges and seminaries, all the denominational assemblies and programs could not produce a Billy Sunday! Only God could do that.

Time would fail me to tell of Gypsy Smith, the boy saved in a gypsy tent, who became one of the most charming preachers of the age, and yet had almost no education; of Mel Trotter, the drunken barber whom God saved and used to win multiplied thousands; of Jerry McAuley, and many another.

I can never forget the man Holland Oats, with a fifth-grade education, whom I heard preaching at the Pacific Garden Mission when God laid it on my heart I must leave everything behind, college teaching, ambition, career in order to preach the Gospel. God hath chosen to use the weak!

2. So With Christian Institutions and Means God Hath Chosen to Use the Weak

The great Christian leaders of America do not come from Harvard or Yale or Columbia or the great universities. Nor do they come from the rich, powerful, most scholarly and most modernistic seminaries. Once they did come from these institutions, when the institutions were new and feeble and without much financial support, and without much prestige and scholarship, but true to Christ.

In the whole world of Christian education, which I have studied so carefully, there is one recurring lesson that every thoughtful man must notice. God uses the Christian institution while it is weak and true. Later, the school or the denomination or agency becomes popular, and along with success comes pride, arrogance, self-sufficiency, and soon God turns away from the large and successful institution and puts His favor upon a new one; the spiritual leadership passes away from the strong to the weak.

Once great men of God came from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, from Oberlin, from Brown. Now God raises up His principal soul winners from Bible institutes, from junior colleges, from small denominational colleges, or relatively new independent Christian schools which are true to the faith.

When I attended a junior college and later taught in a junior college, in our promotion we made much of the proven fact that a larger proportion of students from Christian junior colleges turn out to be Christian leaders and soul winners than those from the great universities. Who's Who shows a much better average for junior college men. I think this is true partly because junior colleges are smaller, are not so proud, not so self-

(Continued on page 9)

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"God Hath Chosen the Weak . . ."

(Continued from page 8)

sufficient. They are not so well known and do not stand so well with this world. Even accreditation may do more harm than good. God chooses the weak.

I have long noted that a far greater proportion of leaders in church and state, Christian leaders and benefactors of mankind, come from among the children of preachers than from any other kind of a home. And I have no doubt that this is partly because a preacher's family has less money, and also it is more likely to have a standard that pleases God instead of a standard that conforms to the world. The saint, the preacher, the soul winner, the Christian leader, the educator or the statesman is more apt to come from a poor family than a rich family. And surprisingly enough, the son of a college professor has no better chance to become greatly useful than the son of a common laborer! God has chosen the weak!

3. God Chooses Minorities Instead of Majorities

We are familiar with the story of Gideon and his three hundred. When he had thirty-two thousand soldiers the Lord said, "The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, 'Mine own hand hath saved me'" (Judg. 7:2). So the first twenty-two thousand who were fearful were sent home. Then of the remaining ten thousand, only the three hundred that lapped water like a dog were left. God chose to have few instead of many so God could do the work and get the glory.

When Ben-hadad, king of Syria, came with a tremendous multitude and thirty-two kings against Israel, there were in Ahab's Israelite army only seven thousand, but God gave the multitude into their hands. Ben-hadad escaped and again brought another army equal to the first and against this mighty army "the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them; and the children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country" (I Kings 20:27). The small Israelite army killed a hundred thousand Syrians, then a wall fell on twenty-seven thousand more and killed them and Ben-hadad was taken. God seems to delight to use the small to overcome the great, the weak to confound the mighty. God delights to take the minority to win against the majority.

When Asa was king of Judah, Zerah the Ethiopian with an army of a million men came against him. "And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee" (II Chron. 14:11). We are not surprised then to read, "So the Lord smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled," and great spoil was taken.

Later when Judah, under King Jehoshaphat, was invaded by the Moabites, Ammonites, and the Edomites, the men of Judah cried to God and God wonderfully helped. The Levites "stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high" (II Chron. 20:19). "And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten" (II Chron. 20:22). The one rose against the other and Judah was delivered from the threat.

This is an old, old story in the Bible. God used the weak to confound the mighty. He will work with minorities against the majorities.

Did not the Lord promise that "one shall chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight"? (Deut. 32:30).

An army? One prophet of God, Elisha, when surrounded at Dothan, had unseen chariots of fire

driven by angels surrounding him. And singlehanded he led the blind Syrian army through Samaria where they received their sight, were fed and released!

One prophet of God, Elijah, faced four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, and saw them defeated with the power of God.

One lone man, Daniel, was not afraid to go against the king and all his lords, who threatened him with the lions' den if he should call on his God. Four defenseless Hebrew young men defied Nebuchadnezzar and would not bow to his golden image in the plain of Dura, and God delivered them, and one like the Son of Man came and walked with them in the furnace, where they felt no heat or pain.

The handful of Christians were a minority when Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem. The Apostle Paul was the underdog everywhere he went in missionary journeys, being cast out of synagogues, thrown in jail, stoned, fighting the wild beasts at Ephesus, in perils of land and sea and of his own countrymen! Yet God used him to spread the Gospel through the Roman Empire in a tremendous, miraculous way.

The Bible shows that God works with little people, with minorities, with the small against the great, the weak against the strong.

4. God Uses Weak and Insignificant Things to Glorify Himself

The God who created everything can use anything. The Lord Jesus did not need a store of wonderful chemicals, but only water of which to make wine, the best at the wedding feast of Cana! The Lord did not need a great quartermaster's corps or a catering firm to feed the five thousand men besides women and children, but only the lunch of one little boy with his five barley rolls and two small fishes!

Ehud the judge delivered Israel with a homemade dagger. Samson slew a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. Moses brought the plagues of Egypt, opened the Red Sea and closed it on Pharaoh's army, brought water for millions of people and their flocks out of a rock—all with a walking stick! David killed Goliath with a smooth rock and a homemade sling. God could use a plaster of figs on a boil to save Hezekiah's life when he was about to die. The Lord Jesus used spittle to make mud and put it on blind eyes to heal them.

God loves insignificant things. All the hairs of our head are counted and recorded. Not a sparrow falls but He knows it. Not a blooming wild flower but He clothes it with the colors more beautiful than the looms of the world can match.

God could cleanse the leper Naaman by his dipping in the muddy water of Jordan. He could kill wicked Sisera with a nail in the hand of a woman.

An educated young Indonesian wrote me that he had decided to fly to Moscow to get trained as a Communist organizer. As he started to step on the plane, he saw my little booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" translated in his native tongue, dropped by some careless hand in the doorway. He picked it up, was cut to the heart, refused to get on the plane, and after taking Christ as his Saviour wrote to tell me how God had wonderfully used this seeming chance incident to save his soul and his life!

It is true in things as it is with men that God has chosen the weak to confound the mighty. "Little is much if God is in it."

5. God Has Chosen Some Mighty

In the blessed Scripture we are considering, we are told, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." Not many, but thank God some!

The Old Testament was written partly by Amos the herdsman and partly by Moses, trained in all the culture of Egypt! The New Testament was written partly by the fishermen James and John, the

carpenter James, the half brother of Jesus, but also by Luke the physician and by Paul, who grew up at the feet of Gamaliel and took all the religious training and standards of the Pharisees. Not many wise men, not many mighty, not many noble, but thank God He has chosen some.

The same God who called Moody, the shoe salesman, called Torrey the scholar, trained at Yale and German universities. The same God who called Mel Trotter and Jerry McAuley laid His hand on Dr. Robert Dick Wilson and Machen and Warfield of Princeton. The God who called Billy Sunday started him on the road by the help of scholarly, gentlemanly J. Wilbur Chapman.

And while Spurgeon did not have much formal education, he became a man of great culture, and he was properly called the "prince of preachers." God does call some wise, some mighty, some noble. Praise His name.

But even here God's rule still holds. When God called Moses the mighty man, a prince of Egypt, from Pharaoh's household, then Moses must go to the back side of the desert for forty desolate years herding sheep! He was eighty years old, after long decades of poverty and humiliation and loneliness and frustration, before God used him to lead Israel from Egypt. At forty he was educated, powerful, influential, and arrogant. Before God used him, he was eighty and had an inferiority complex and had lost all his standing in Egypt. God can use the mighty, but He must make them weak. God can use the proud, only after He makes them humble. We need not be surprised that the Bible calls Moses the meekest man who ever lived! And so God sanctified Moses' gifts and training, and made him what he ought to be by God's own power and mercy.

Paul the apostle had much reason to have confidence in the flesh. He said, "If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless" (Phil. 3:4-6). But of all these things Paul said, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Phil. 3:7, 8).

His standing as a Jew, his fidelity as a strict Pharisee, his blamelessness concerning the law, his reputation for ceremonial righteousness—all these things Paul counted garbage, refuse, slop to be thrown away, to have the power of Christ! God must make the strong weak before He can make them strong! God makes the wisdom of this world foolishness before He can make their foolishness the wisdom of God.

Lest Paul should be exalted above measure there was given him a thorn in the flesh. It was a messenger of Satan sent to buffet him, but God allowed it and God would not remove it. God said to Paul, "My strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9).

So Paul said for all the mighty men and women that God might condescend to use, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (II Cor. 4:7).

So Fanny Crosby was gifted to write wonderful hymns, but the beauty of her gift mind worked always in eternal darkness, physically, behind her blind eyes. And down through the years some of the greatest saints of God have suffered the most. Yes, God calls a few wise, a few mighty, a few noble. And God sanctifies and uses their talents and gifts. But always there is compensation so that they must say like Paul, "For when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10).

6. God Chooses the Weak, But They Must Give Their Best

It is true that God chooses the

weak to confound the mighty, but let us be warned: the weak who serve God must pay the price for service.

God cannot use the ignorant who does not mind his ignorance. God can use a singer who has a very ordinary voice, but God never uses a singer who does not long urgently to sing the sweetest note possible to honor the Saviour. God does not favor laziness. God does not lay great responsibilities on those who do not feel the weight of them.

Our poor carnal nature is so prone to call laziness consecration. Many, many people would rather pray when they ought to study. They would rather sing without training than to do the labor of voice culture.

Samuel the prophet gave King Saul God's message: "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (I Sam. 15:22).

It is true that God greatly used D. L. Moody who had only about a fifth-grade education to start with. But that is only part of the story. Moody became a great student, and customarily spent two hours a day in study, rising at four in the morning to study his Bible and other books. One is rather surprised to find in Moody's books quotations from the leading Christian writers. It is not surprising that presidents and premiers and kings heard him gladly. Moody had little chance of schooling, and was so burdened by it that he founded three schools, two at Northfield, Massachusetts, for men and women, and the Moody Bible Institute at Chicago.

It is true that Charles Spurgeon never went to college and started with approximately a grade-school education. But who can read his great commentary on the Psalms, *The Treasury of David*, without seeing that this was a man of many books, an ardent reader, a constant student, one of the most cultured men of his day! God may use the ignorant, but he never uses the ignorant who is glad to stay ignorant. God may use a man of small talents, but not the man who does not want to give his talent the best usage he can.

Billy Sunday had only a high school diploma. He preached with slang. But his sermons are strong, sound, powerful, well prepared.

Sometimes a backslidden Christian may say he can be just as good a Christian at home in meditation and prayer as attending the house of God. And some shut-ins, some people who are bound by infirmities so they can

never leave the bed, we find are wonderful Christians, though they do not have the privilege of attending the house of God. But these great Christians would, if they could, attend the house of God, and no one who deliberately avoids the company of God's people and the preaching and teaching of the Word of God will be as good a Christian as he ought to be. So it is that one who avoids study, avoids education, avoids the training of his faculties is not much used of God.

God wants the weak ones that He calls to feel their weakness and to feel that they must run to God for help and must rely on Him for power, and that He alone can do the work and He alone should have the glory.

A poor man may be as covetous as a millionaire. A harelippped woman may be as vain as a beauty. I knew a young man who had only been converted a few months and had never read the Bible through, and he was led into the snare of Jehovah's Witnesses and was prouder and more arrogant in interpreting and applying the few verses of Scripture that he knew than most scholars with a Ph. D. God has chosen the weak, but He wants them to despair over their weakness and run to God for power.

Let every Christian then who can get a good education. Let everyone who has a good singing voice take training if he can. Let every man who preaches learn to outline his sermons and make them logical and pointed and compelling and powerful if he can. But always let us confess our weakness and give God the glory and depend on the power from Heaven!

So there is room in God's service for everyone. Praise God, the Saviour was willing to save the dying thief. He was willing to cast out Mary Magdalene's seven devils. He was willing to save the woman who was a sinner and wept over His feet or to save the many-times married woman of Samaria at the well of Sychar. And the same Saviour is willing to call Jacob back to Bethel, willing to use Jonah after he had run away from God before. He is willing to use "unlearned and ignorant men" if they have been with Jesus.

God who used a donkey to preach to Balaam can use men, any kind of men, just so their hearts are really completely sold out to please Jesus Christ. Are you weak? Are you poor? Are there great handicaps? Then you are just right for God to use, if you are wholly committed to Him. Then He must do the work and He must have the glory!

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Worldly Wise . . .

(Continued from page 1)

we may become "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

Undoubtedly this man moved in the best society. He had the best farm in all that section of country, and the best horses and cattle.

If he had lived in Illinois he would have had all the fine Short-horn and Alderney stock, and all the best kinds of farming machinery. No doubt he lived in a very good house, and had large and convenient barns and other outbuildings: so that, altogether, he would be regarded as a very successful man.

But He Had No Time for God and His Own Lost Soul

It may be there were revival meetings in his neighborhood, but he was always too busy to go. One of the greatest revivals that ever took place occurred in those days under John the Baptist, and, perhaps, this great revivalist preached not far from his farm,

but he couldn't leave his business to attend. He saw the crowds of people going by, on their way to the banks of the Jordan to hear this great preacher; but perhaps he thought they were fanatics.

No doubt he belonged to the synagogue, and believed in the doctrines of his sect; but he didn't believe in innovations. He had no faith in any of these irregular means of grace, and didn't care any thing about hearing that wilderness preacher. It is quite possible that he heard about the Galilean Prophet healing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out devils; just as He is doing now for these poor drunkards in Chicago; but I can seem to hear him say, like a great many of our business men here, "Oh, it is only a nine days' wonder; only an excitement; it will all be over pretty soon."

There is no doubt he lived in fine style; had the best wines on his table; used to send down to Egypt for the clothes for himself and family; drove a fine four-in-hand, and was pointed out as a most popular and prosperous gentleman.

If any one owed him a debt he looked sharp after him and made him pay it up; but all the while, though he thought himself so sharp, the Devil was cheating him out of his soul.

If a friend came to see him, he would take him around his farm, show him his land, his barns, and his storehouses; point out this one and that one which he was going to pull down and make larger; tell him how he was once a poor boy, and how his father died, and how the creditors came and took every thing, and how he commenced life with nothing, and had worked his own way up to this respectable position; and his friend would go away almost envying him, and saying he was a most remarkable man. But the trouble with him was, he was only living for this world; life with him reached only just from the cradle to the grave. He didn't take death and eternity into his plans.

This Rich Man Died Suddenly, Unexpectedly, Unprepared

There is a proverb which says, "In every man's garden there is a sepulcher," but he didn't remember death or judgment. All his schemes and plans were for this side the grave; the future was a mystery to him, and so he lived for the present.

I can see him there in the parlor of his elegant mansion. It is midnight; the architect has been there, and he has been discussing plans for his new barns. He is going to have the finest barns in all Palestine. But while he is looking over the plans, all alone, his family all gone to bed, the doors all locked, a stranger lays his hand on the latch. In spite of the double locks, and bolts, and bars, he enters, walks up to the man, lays his hand on him, and says, "Come, I must take you away."

"Who are you? what is your name?" asks the rich man, in great terror.

"Death."

Ah, Death ought not to have been a stranger to him. He had seen funerals enough; perhaps he had acted as pallbearer, and had heard many funeral sermons. He is fifty years old, and he ought to have known and been prepared to meet death by that time.

The man tries to bribe Death to let him stay a little longer. He wants to carry out his plans; he wants at least to arrange his

will. But no: Death cannot be bribed. You may bribe politicians and officers of the law, but you can't bribe Death.

The next morning he is found dead in his chair. Then there is great surprise and sorrow. Two days after there is a fine, imposing funeral; and some minister, like some of the ministers in these days, comes and pronounces a eulogy over him, and hopes he has gone to a better world. Oh, these lying funeral sermons! How men try to make out that a godless life can be followed by a death in the Lord, and a free admittance into the kingdom of Heaven!

His friends and relations try to make out that he has been a wise and successful man, but just see what the Son of God says about him:

"Thou fool!"

That was his true epitaph, and it has been handed down to us for a warning.

I can imagine some of you saying, "If I had known that Moody would have talked about death tonight I wouldn't have come out to hear him. Why doesn't he talk about life, about happiness? Why doesn't he tell us how to get on in business? how to get through with the battle of life?"

I will tell you why I talk about death. It is because nine out of every ten die unexpectedly. We are all of us pretty well acquainted with Death. He comes into all our homes, and yet when he comes again we are always unprepared for him. I am speaking here tonight to some who may be in eternity tomorrow. I come to tell you to be prepared for death. Is it not downright folly to spend your lives in piling up wealth, and then to die as this man died, and have this same epitaph written against you?

Simply By Neglect He Went to Hell!

Let me call your attention to the fact that the sin of this man was simply neglect. There is no evidence that his business was wrong, but he neglected his soul for the sake of his business. Some of you may say to yourselves, "Am I not kind to the poor? Am I not honorable in all my transactions? Don't I always pay a hundred cents on the dollar?" Yes, but you are dishonest to your own soul. You fold your arms and depend upon your own good deeds, and don't come to Jesus Christ for salvation.

My friends, there are only three steps down the hill to perdition; they are, first, to neglect; second, to refuse; third, to despise. All of you who are out of Christ in this audience are standing on some one of these three steps of the ladder. You can all of you see that if a man neglects his business, and leaves it to itself, he will soon become a bankrupt. If a man neglects his health, he will become an invalid. It is just as true that if a man neglects his soul he will be lost.

A sailor was telling a man that his father, and his grandfather, and his great-grandfather, were all drowned at sea.

"Why don't you prepare to die, then?" was the answer. "You may be drowned, too, any day."

"Where did your father die?" inquired the sailor.

"He died on the land."

"And your grandfather?"

"On the land."

"And your great-grandfather?"

"On the land, too."

"And are you prepared to die?" asked the sailor.

"Well, no; I cannot say I am."

"Then why don't you get prepared?" said the sailor: "It seems that people die on land just as well as on the sea."

I can imagine some of you saying, "I have got time enough. I don't propose to settle this question just yet. I have a good many years before me." My friend, let us imagine that we go to the cemetery in Graceland and summon up the dead; or let us bring them into this hall in the midst of this audience, with their ghastly winding-sheets. You would find that most of them died young. Whole generations, whole populations are swept into eternity before they reach the allotted age of man. Instead of three-score years and ten, the average age is only about thirty years.

Dear friends, you may not hear

(Continued on page 11)

"Great Chapters of the Bible"

James 5
Christians Admonished

Clues Across

- 1 "Be ye also patient; ----- your hearts"
- 8 "----- riches are corrupted"
- 11 "whosoever will ----- his life for my sake, the same shall save it" Luke 9
- 12 "because he could swear by no greater, he ----- by himself" Heb. 6 (modern spelling)
- 14 initials of the son and grandson of Solomon (I Chron. 3:10)
- 15 "shall eat your flesh ----- it were fire"
- 16 "----- was a man subject to like passions as we are"
- 18 "Of his own will begat he ----- with the word of truth" Jas. 1
- 19 a city belonging to tribe of Simeon (I Chron. 4:29)
- 21 son of Peleg (Gen. 11:18)
- 22 "Therewith bless we God, . . . and therewith ----- we men" Jas. 3
- 25 "ye have nourished your ----- as in a day of slaughter"
- 28 "pray one ----- another, that ye may be healed"
- 29, 30 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto ----- of the Lord"
- 31 "are entered into the ears ----- the Lord of sabaoth"
- 33 "Ye have heard of the patience of -----"
- 34 one who reels
- 35 the chancellor (Ezra 4:8)
- 37 initials of two sons of David (I Kings 1:39, 18)
- one made king
- one plotting to be king
- 38 "Let the heaven and earth praise him, the -----, and every thing that moveth" Ps. 69
- 41 an affirmative answer
- 44 to prepare for publication
- 46, 48 "the prophets, who have spoken in the name of -----"
- 49 father of Abner (I Sam. 14:51)
- 51 a son of David killed by Absalom (II Sam. 13:29)
- 53, 54 "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord -----"

Clues Down

- 1 "ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of -----"
- 2 "though the waves thereof ----- themselves, yet can they not prevail" Jer. 5
- 3 "Elias was a man subject to like passions ----- we are"
- 4 "For it had been ----- for them not to have known the way of righteousness" II Pet. 2

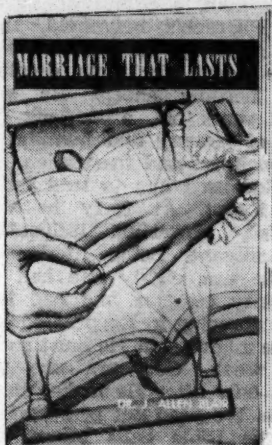
- 5 "Your gold and silver ----- cankered"
- 6 "----- not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth"
- 7 "unrighteousness of men, who ----- the truth in unrighteousness" Rom. 1
- 8 "but let your ----- be -----; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation"
- 9 city of the Chaldees (Gen. 11:31)
- 10 "the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall ----- him up"
- 13 initials of the following: general who attacked Judah prophet who prophesied his defeat (Isa. 37:4, 6)
- 17 "-----, I perceive that thou art a prophet" John 4
- 20 the result
- 21 initials of Jacob's mother, grandfather, and brother (Gen. 25:19, 20, 25)
- 22 a geometric figure whose bottom is a circle, and whose sides taper to a point
- 23 "the Pharisees began to ----- him vehemently" Luke 11
- 24 "Thy ----- shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be" Deut. 33
- 26 initials of two prophets of God (I Kings 17:1; II Chron. 16:7)
- 27 to weep with convulsive heavings
- 28 "the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were -----"
- 32 "the hire . . . which is of you kept back by -----, crieth"
- 33 "Ye have condemned and killed the -----"
- 36 "Is any sick among you? let him call for the ----- (s) of the church"
- 39 "Doth a fountain send forth ----- the same place sweet water and bitter?" Jas. 3
- 40 title of the Persian ruler
- 42 meaning "My God" (Mark 15:34)
- 43 "he hath put a new ----- in my mouth, even praise unto our God" Ps. 40
- 44 "Ye . . . have seen the ----- of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful"
- 45 a chief ruler about David (II Sam. 20:26)
- 47 a printer's measure
- 50 "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ----- be condemned"
- 52 initials of two cities: where Jesus worked a miracle (Luke 7:11)
- where He could not, because of their unbelief (Luke 4:16)

Free!

for correct, prompt answers to
Puzzle Number 48

Marriage That Lasts

By Dr. J. Allen Blair



As it says in the front of this little booklet, "The greatest institution in the world is the family. Because of this, it is of paramount importance that everyone contemplating marriage familiarize himself with the teachings of God's Word on this significant subject. Before the creation of the world, God established certain principles for marriage which He has never changed."

In this booklet, Dr. Blair sets forth some important scriptural principles to be carefully studied and followed by all who would like to have an abiding marriage union. It is amazing, the ignorance with which the average young couple enters into a union intended by God to be so holy and sacred.

THE RULES

1. Fill in the empty blanks according to the clues given. Answers must be complete and correct.

2. PRINT (not write) your name and address in the blank below the puzzle. (Please include country in foreign addresses.) This coupon will serve as your address label for the envelope containing your prize. Mail to: PUZZLE EDITOR, THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois. If you do not wish to cut up your copy of the paper, you may print (not more than three inches wide) on a separate sheet of paper your name and address, and the answers according to the clue numbers given. If you print your answers on a separate sheet of paper, please put them in the same form as the puzzle rather than in columns. This makes them much easier to check and also reduces the possibility of mistakes. Entries will not be returned.

3. In order for you to receive this week's prize, *Marriage That Lasts*, your entry must be postmarked by midnight, December 7, 1959. If your paper arrives after the deadline date, please place the date of arrival on your entry. The answer to Puzzle Number 48 will appear in the December 18 issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

4. Each person having a correct entry will receive a coupon along with the weekly prize. *Save these coupons!* They are important! At the end of the year those who have forty-eight coupons will receive a large type, clothbound Scofield Reference Bible. Those who have forty coupons will receive a copy of the book, *Man Sent From God*, which is a thrilling biography of Dr. John R. Rice. Please remember that the coupons which you have are the only record of your correct entries. It will be your responsibility to keep the coupons. In addition, note that coupons may not be exchanged with one another. The winning of a Bible is on an individual and not a group basis. Also, duplicate coupons will not count as two separate coupons. When you receive duplicate copies

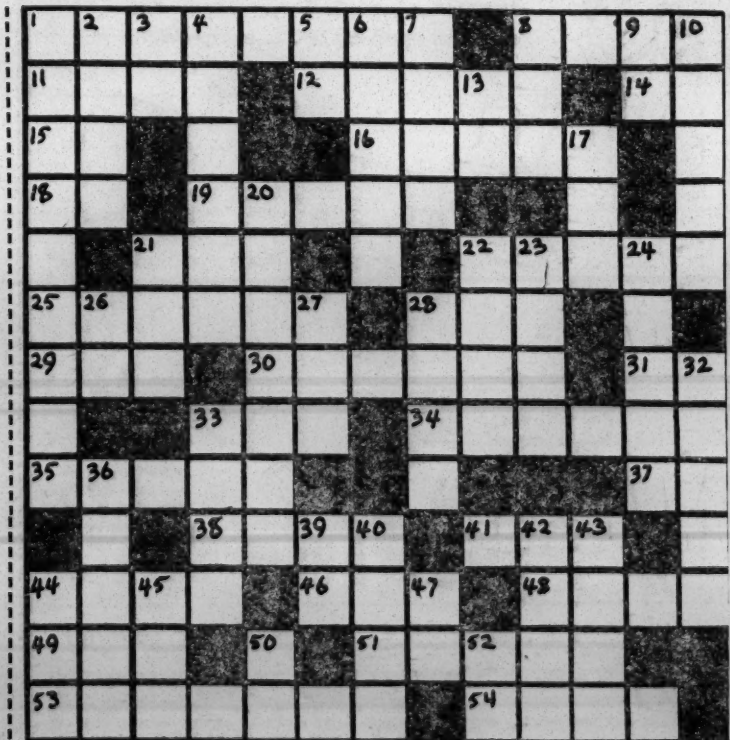
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Answer to Puzzle No. 45

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CORRUPT SCALL
ED OTHAT THEY
WHEN E L
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PROFIT FEW ER
ROW DO RAT A
IN WORKS THEY
E AWC U CERE
DENY HIM HEED

Deadline: December 7, 1959

Puzzle No. 48



Mail to: Puzzle Editor, Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois
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(Cut along dotted lines)

Worldly Wise...

(Continued from page 10)

my voice again. I may be speaking to you for the last time. You may never come into the Tabernacle again, and I beg of you, as a friend and a brother, don't go out without salvation. May God wake up every soul here tonight, and when death comes to summon you, may you go to triumph over the grave, and so enter into a glorious immortality!

Don't Be Like the Rich Fool

D. L. Moody has been in Heaven now sixty years. But the message he preached to four thousand Chicago businessmen is still God's Word, God's call, God's warning to every unconverted man. If you have never honestly repented of your sins and turned to Christ for salvation; if you do not know that your sins are forgiven, that you are born again, let the editor beg you to turn today to the Lord Jesus.

If you are honestly tired of sin and want forgiveness, and will here and now turn to Christ for His mercy and salvation, I beg you to decide, sign the following de-

cision form, copy it in a letter and mail it to the editor at once. Do it now and mean it, and set out to live for God!

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read D. L. Moody's sermon on "A Worldly Wise Man." I confess that I am a poor lost sinner in need of forgiveness and salvation. I believe that the dear Lord Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and that He wants to forgive and save me. I will neglect no longer! Here and now I turn my heart from the

love of sin. I ask the Lord to forgive me and save me. Here and now, this moment, I rely upon Him and trust Him to forgive me and save me as He promised to do.

I will claim Christ openly as my Saviour, and set out to live for Him today. Brother Rice, please write me a letter of encouragement and counsel about how to live for Christ now that I have taken Him as my own personal Saviour.

Signed _____

Address _____

Revised Version

Five-year-old Mary had been drilled thoroughly on the 23rd Psalm for the Children's day program.

Frightened by the spectators, she began haltingly, "The Lord is my..."

"Yes, go on honey," the pastor urged.

Again she started, "The Lord is..." The rest was forgotten.

"Come on, darling, you can finish it."

With a deep breath and a big sigh Mary rattled, "The Lord is my shepherd, I should worry!"

—Sunday

Protestant Pope...

(Continued from page 1)

the Bible for himself. He dare not leave that momentous matter in other hands than his own. If Jesus Christ tells me I am to be judged by what God has said in the Bible, then as an intelligent person I will go to God's Word to find out for myself what God has said regarding the way of salvation. This I ask you to do.

Now suppose a man assumes, because he has been so taught, that he is not competent to understand the way of salvation for himself, and therefore decides to leave the salvation of his soul in the hands of his church—what if that church should be wrong? Will God save that man because of his sincere trust in his mistaken leaders? Jesus Himself answers that question: "The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him at the last day." If that be true, and it is, and if that man's church is wrong, that man will be eternally lost. God had plainly told him in the Bible that not any church is to be the judge of man. The Word of God in the Bible is man's sole judge, here and hereafter.

But suppose that man accepts as truth what Christ has said about the Bible's being the sole judge, and goes to the Bible to

find out for himself what God has said regarding his salvation. What will he find? He will find, as multitudes have found, that the way of salvation is set forth so clearly, so simply, so unmistakably plain, that if he wants to be saved, he can be saved, and saved instantly. In the words of holy Scripture the way is so plain that a way-faring man though a fool need not err therein.

In presenting truth the Bible uses the principle of contrast, and tells us what a thing is by telling us first what it is not. For example, Titus 3:5 says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us." Again in John 1:12, 13 we read, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood [that is, not by heredity], nor of the will of the flesh [not by our good works], nor of blood [that is, not by heredity], nor of the will of the flesh [not by our good works], nor of the will of man [not by human pronouncements connected with ritual, sacraments, and priestly ceremonies], but of God."

In this message I will use the Roman Catholic teaching regarding the pope, the priesthood, and purgatory as a background, and then by contrast set forth the pope, the priesthood, and the purgatory of the Bible.

Church of Rome Claims the Pope Is Christ's Vicar, Succeeding Peter

The Roman Catholic Church is founded on the claim that the pope as head of the church is the vicar or representative of Christ on earth, and is invested with divine authority. It is claimed that this authority was first conferred on the Apostle Peter, and has been transmitted by "apostolic succession" through a living unbroken chain of popes by laying on of hands. As vicar of Christ the pope delegates his authority to the priesthood, who thus become the actual agents of Christ on earth. Therefore the Romanist boldly affirms that "outside the Catholic Church there is no salvation."

Cardinal Gibbons, a spokesman for the Roman Church, in "Faith of our Fathers," p. 95, says, "The Catholic Church teaches that our Lord conferred on St. Peter the first place of honor and jurisdiction in the government of His whole church, and the same spiritual supremacy has always resided in the popes or bishops of Rome, as being the successors of St. Peter. Consequently to be true followers of Christ, all Christians must be in communion with the See of Rome, where Peter rules in the person of his successor."

Cardinal Gibbon further says, "Any church that does not recognize Peter as its foundation stone is not the church of Christ" (p. 123).

Thus we clearly see that the entire Roman system rests on this one basic doctrine—the primacy of Peter as the one sovereign ruler and foundation stone of the Christian church. If we can from the Word of God disprove that doctrine, the whole structure must fall to the ground.

My friend, whether you be Catholic or Protestant, I assure you there is nothing easier to disprove than that pretentious claim, and it is one of the profoundest mysteries to those outside the Catholic faith why intelligent Catholics are willing to believe this stupendous claim without prayerfully reading the Bible for themselves, to see if such a thing is true.

I know that will sound like Protestant bigotry to most Catholics, but I also believe there are sincere and intelligent souls among them who will be willing to face the fact that even Roman Catholics themselves have shown that both the Bible and history disprove the primacy of Peter, as well as some other doctrines of the Roman Church.

The claim that Peter was the foundation stone of the church is based on one single verse of Scripture which is taken out of its context and interpreted as conferring special powers on Peter, although both Matthew and John reveal that Christ conferred exactly the same power on all the disciples (Matt. 18:18; John 20:23).

In his great confession in Matthew 16:16-18 Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh

and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter [Gk. petros], and on this rock [Gk. petra] I will build my church."

Now note carefully. Rome teaches that Peter himself was the rock on which the church was to be founded. If that is true the rest of the Scriptures will so teach. But all the rest of the Bible teaches that Peter's confession that Christ was the Son of God is the rock on which the church is built. The Greek words *petros* and *petra* are different words.

If Jesus had meant that Peter was the rock He would have said, "Thou art Peter, and on thee I will build my church." But instead, having heard Peter's noble confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," He said, "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee." Revealed what? What was revealed by the Father to Peter? It was the momentous fact that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. With Peter's confession in mind Jesus then said, "Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." What rock? Peter? No, but the great truth Peter had just declared; the statement that Jesus Christ was the Son of God.

Catholic Church Fathers Agreed That Peter Was Not Pope

Now is this just a Protestant interpretation? By no means. If Peter was made the head of the church all the fathers would have known it. Did they? On the contrary, history, which is neither Catholic nor Protestant, proves that many of the church fathers understood that Peter's confession, and not Peter himself, was the rock (petra) on which the church was to be built.

St. Cyril said, "I believe that by the rock you must understand the faith of the apostles."

St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, said, "The rock (petra) is the blessed and only rock of the faith confessed by the mouth of St. Peter." He added, "It is on this rock of the confession of faith that the church was built."

St. Chrysostom, writing on Matthew's Gospel, said, "On this rock I will build my church—that is on the faith of the confession."

Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan, St. Basil of Seleucia, and the fathers of the Council of Chalcedon all taught likewise.

The scholarly St. Augustine wrote, "What do the words mean—I will build my church on this rock? On this faith, on that which said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

This interpretation of the famous passage was almost universal throughout Christendom in the days of Augustine. That is history. That is undeniable fact. What a deathblow to the unscriptural claim of the primacy of Peter!

I am more concerned in this message with the positive side of the subject than with the negative, so I will not extend the proofs against Peter's primacy. If any Catholic will read his own Bible for himself, avoiding the footnotes that will mislead him, but using his own God-given good judgment, he will find there is no evidence that Peter ever acted as pope, and no evidence whatever that Peter ever was in Rome. He will see also that the chairman of the church council in Acts 15 was James and not Peter; that Paul placed himself on a level with Peter, and therefore did not regard him as pope; he will see that Paul once had to rebuke Peter for unscriptural conduct (Gal. 2:11); he will see that Peter himself stated in I Peter 2:6, 7 that not he but the Lord Jesus Christ was the foundation stone of the church; and that St. Paul also declared the same truth in I Corinthians 3:11 when he said, "For other foundation can no man lay that that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

I appeal to my Catholic friends to lay that clear statement of holy Scripture alongside the statement of Cardinal Gibbons previously quoted. He said, "Any church that does not recognize Peter as its foundation stone is not the true church." Here we have man's word against God's

Word. How can any true Christian disbelieve God's Word which is to be our judge, and follow man's word?

No Succession of Popes Back to Peter


But further, if any man will read unbiased history he will find that the church of Rome did not come into ascendancy until the fifth century; he will find there is no such thing as an unbroken succession of popes back to St. Peter; he will find that at one time three different popes fought for the papal chair. Where then was this succession which is claimed to have been unbroken? He will also find there is a period of history in the middle ages called "The Pornocracy" (Rule of Harlots) when evil women (therefore not God) placed on the papal throne men of their own choice, and these were notoriously evil men, as Roman Catholic historians have been forced to admit.

It is history that at the Vatican Council in 1870 when the infallibility of the pope was first adopted, 21 Archbishops and 65 Bishops voted against it. In that Council the scholarly Roman Catholic Archbishop Strossmayer said:

"Penetrated with the feelings of responsibility of which God will demand of me an answer, I have set myself to study with the most serious attention the Old and New Testaments, and I have asked these venerable monuments of truth to make known to me if the holy pontiff, who presides here, is the true successor of St. Peter, vicar of Christ, and the infallible doctor of the church. I find in the apostolic days no question of a pope, successor to St. Peter, and vicar of Jesus Christ, any more than of Mahomet who did not then exist. Now having read the whole New Testament, I declare before God, with my hand raised to that great crucifix, that I have found no trace of the papacy as it exists at this moment."

Concluding his remarkable address the learned archbishop said:

"I have established (1) That Jesus gave to His apostles the same power that He gave to St. Peter. (2) That apostles never recognized in St. Peter the vicar of Jesus Christ. (3) That Peter never thought of being pope, and never acted as if he were pope. (4) That the Councils of the first four centuries, while they recognized the high position which the bishop of Rome occupied on account of Rome, only accorded to him a pre-eminence of honor, never of power or of jurisdiction. (5) That the holy fathers in the famous passage 'Thou art Peter and on this rock I will build my church,' never understood that the church was built on (Continued on page 12)



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Protestant Pope...

(Continued from page 11)

Peter (super petrum) but on the rock (super petram), that is, on the confession of the faith of the apostle. I conclude victoriously, with history, with reason, with logic, with good sense, and with a Christian conscience, that Jesus Christ did not confer any supremacy on St. Peter, and that the bishops of Rome did not become sovereigns of the church, but only by confiscating one by one all the rights of the episcopate."

Now if I were a devout Roman Catholic and someone respectfully set these words by a Catholic Archbishop before me, I think I could never rest until I had proven from the Bible whether they were true or false. Otherwise how could I escape the charge of intellectual cowardice by refusing to face the question? How could my soul be at peace? Is not my eternal salvation at stake? What if my spiritual leaders are wrong? It would not help me that I sincerely believed they were right. I would have the words of the Saviour Himself before me, "The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." I declare I would take no rest until I had searched the Scriptures to find if these things are so. With an open mind and a prayer to God for illumination, I would read through the entire New Testament until I had the answer to my questions.

And has God provided someone who would be my guide in search of the truth? Is there anyone divinely appointed to take the things of Christ and reveal them unto me? Did Jesus Christ ever promise such a guide, an illuminator of Scripture, whose mission it would be to reveal Bible truth to those who sincerely desired to know it? The answer brings us to the positive side of this message.

The Pope of the Bible Is the Holy Spirit

Just as definitely as Jesus Christ had a time ministry, coming from the Father for a specific purpose, and when this work was done leaving the world to return to the Father, so the Holy Spirit was sent from the Father to do a specific work, and when that work is finished, He too will leave the world and return to Heaven again.

Now what is this particular mission and ministry of the Holy Spirit? It is to take the place of the Son on the earth, and to be His representative in the church during this age of grace. He is to be to the whole church at large what Jesus Christ was to His disciples when He was visibly and personally among them as counsellor and guide. The mission of the Spirit, according to the Scriptures, is to be the vicar of Christ on earth, His representative in the church during His absence.

Look now at God's Word and see if this is not the clear teaching of Scripture. When Christ was about to leave His disciples, He said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth . . . for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you . . . But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:16-18, 26).

Jesus here declares that the Holy Spirit will take His place in the church as Jesus' other self. The Spirit will be Christ's representative during the Saviour's absence from the earth.

One of the chief ministries of the Spirit will be as teacher and revealer of the truth, as we read, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). Clearly and indisputably the Holy Spirit is here set forth as the divine revealer of truth, the executive of the Godhead, the chief administrator in the church. The infinite sacrifice which the Father and the Son made at Calvary for the salvation of men is

to be administered, not by any single man or group of men, but by the blessed Holy Spirit Himself. As one has said, "It is inconceivable that this infinite sacrifice should be administered by any lesser person than the Holy Spirit. No human agent has sufficient merit to become the sole channel of God's grace."

The pope of the Bible is, therefore, not a man but God Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, He sat down in the place of authority there. When the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven, He took the place of authority in the church as its sole head, administrator and guide.

Anyone can read this for himself in the book of Acts, sometimes called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. There the progress of the early church is recorded step by step, and always and only under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. No man throughout the entire book is seen acting as the executive of the Godhead, neither Peter, Paul nor any other apostle. The invisible Holy Spirit was the leader and administrator from beginning to end of the book.

Says Dr. S. E. Slocum, "It is recorded that all the activity of the disciples was directed and inspired by the Holy Spirit. In this one book of 28 chapters the Holy Spirit is mentioned 53 times. Certainly from the very beginning the ministry of the apostolic church was governed directly by the Holy Spirit as the sole vicar of Christ."

This is true of the entire New Testament from Acts to the book

of Revelation. Nowhere in any of the church epistles is there the slightest evidence that a human pope ever acted as head of the church or vicar of Christ. It is simply a human tradition, a human invention, and a denial of the divine plan for the church. It is the substitution of a human pope in the place of the divine head, and is rightly described by Dr. A. J. Gordon when he said:

"What was the one cardinal error underlying this system upon which the whole papal government rests? This—the rule and authority of the Holy Spirit ignored in the church, the servants of the house assuming mastery and encroaching more and more upon the prerogatives of the head, till at last one man sets himself up as the administrator of the church and daringly usurps the office belonging to the Holy Spirit, and calls himself the vicar of Christ."

The fateful and unspiritual result of this substitution by the Roman Church of human government for divine rule is seen when the whole system becomes a series of substitutions, making a man's salvation depend on the hands and voice of a ministering priest instead of on a personal experience of the regenerating Spirit in his heart. To quote Dr. Slocum again:

"The Catholic religion is one of substitutes:

"For regeneration by the Holy Spirit, whereby the believer is born again, the Romanist substitutes a drop of 'holy water' administered by a priest.

"For spiritual fellowship with believers through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Romanist substitutes confession to a priest, masses, indulgences, novenas, invocation of saints, devotion to images.

"For lack of the Holy Spirit the Romanist has no prayer meetings, no Christian fellowship, no direct access to God through prayer, but makes his petition to a woman about whom the Word says nothing as regards prayer.

"For lack of the Spirit the Romanist ignores God's Word, 'There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,' and sets up the Virgin Mary as his private mediator.

"For lack of the Spirit the Romanist ignores the word of Christ, 'If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it,' instead of praying to God in the name of Christ, he attempts to approach Christ through the weakness of a woman, or long-dead saints."

Such, then, is the difference between a religion based mostly on human tradition, and one based only on the Word of God. One is a mixture of truth and error; the other is New Testament Christianity. Romanism is a perpetuation of that Judaism which Christ so relentlessly opposed. He said to the religious leaders of His day, "Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (Matt. 15:6). Jesus settled every controversy with them by quoting the Scriptures. If it was written

in the Bible, that settled it for Him. Don't you think, dear Catholic friend, that should settle it for you also?

The primacy of Peter, therefore, in the light of Scripture is unprovable. The pope of the church is the blessed Holy Spirit. I earnestly urge any Roman Catholic who has read this message thus far to obey the words of Christ in John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Let the Holy Spirit be your teacher. You are responsible to God for your own salvation, not to any church. The church cannot save. Only Christ can save. His Word will be the judge and nothing else. I earnestly entreat you to believe this and to act on it. It may mean your soul's salvation. You dare not be negligent about that.

(The next issue of THE SWORD will contain the second message on this subject, and will compare the Roman Catholic priesthood with the priesthood of the Bible. Pass on this copy of THE SWORD to some Catholic friend or neighbor.)

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